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CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER:

REVIEW OF THE WEEK,	227
FINANCIAL REVIEW,	230
EDITORIAL:	
The Silver Prospect,	230
SPECIAL ARTICLE:	
The Woods in Winter,	231
WEEKLY NOTES,	232
POETRY:	
Fact and Fancy,	233
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE:	
Some New London Papers and Reviews,	233
REVIEWS:	
Phyfe's "Seven Thousand Words Often Mispronounced,"	234
Millet's "Provincial France,"	235
Cable's "Strange True Stories of Louisiana,"	245
Greene's "Coal and the Coal Mines,"	235
Clarke's "The Scratch Club,"	236
Smyth's "American Literature,"	236
AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS,	237
PERIODICAL LITERATURE,	238
ART:	
The Exhibition at the Art Club,	238
SCIENCE NOTES,	238
STRANGE QUESTIONS BY MR. WANAMAKER'S SECRETARY,	239
THE FUTURE SITUS OF OUR COTTON MANUFACTURE,	241
PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED,	242
DRIFT,	242

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REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

WELCOME the coming, speed the parting year! It is with but few regrets that we see 1889 take its departure. It was a year of calamities, disasters, and disappointments for the most part. No doubt it brought us gains, which the future will disclose, but which the present mostly hides. Altogether the best of these gains we can recognize has been the collapse of so many of the Trust conspiracies, slain not by the statutes but by economic law. Even this, however, has resulted in a general depression in the markets, which will prevent the country from reaping at once the benefits of what appears to be the most solid revival of our industries that has been enjoyed since 1880.

The new year has abundant elements of hope in it. We may expect from Congress legislation on the lines of the campaign of 1888, which will both diminish the accumulation of a Treasury Surplus, and give security to a number of our depressed industries. The energy with which the Committee of Ways and Means have prosecuted the hearings of representatives of industries affected has impressed even our Free Traders. Not to be outdone by his successful rival for the Speakership, Major McKinley sacrificed his holiday to the work, along with five other members who constitute a sub-committee. It must be a new experience for some of the Democratic members to face the people who are thus presented. They took care to have no such hearings when they were in control. Their newspaper backers assure the country that hearings are useless, yet they have to make room for column after column of the evidence, recognizing that it has a news value.

THE Southern members of Congress are very much exercised by the proposal to establish a sort of federal control of elections of Congressmen. This both they and their friends at the North stigmatize as an attempt to "control the elections from Washington." As the bill proposed by Senator Chandler does not devolve a single duty on any official in Washington, there is room to doubt the accuracy of the description. The registrars and judges it proposes are to be appointed by the judges of the United States Courts on nomination of the candidates of both parties, unless there is some good reason for rejecting a nomination thus made. And over their proceedings the same courts are to exercise supervision and control. This would accomplish nothing but "the bare indifferent fair-play" which the Scotch so resented in Cromwell's judges, and which the South seems to dislike quite as much. It really would give no more power to one party than to the other, while it would put an end to such scandalous abuses of the form of elections as exist even in comparatively orderly States like Virginia.

As Mr. H. C. Lodge has been made chairman of the committee on Federal elections, and as he expressed himself very strongly on this point during the recess of Congress, it is assumed that the Republican leaders intend to press the question to a decision. As some fifty Southern members would lose their seats by the establishment of fair elections, they have been casting about for some device to defeat the proposal. It is believed that they expect this by trading their votes on the question of the location of the World's Fair. That city is to have it which can turn over the largest number of Republican votes to defeat the proposed election law. The scheme looks plausible, but we do not believe that there is any available group of Republican members which is ready to earn national discredit to secure a local advantage. And we beg leave to assure them that nothing would be so certain to make the Fair a general failure as even the suspicion of such a bargain in connection with it.

THE news from Georgia and South Carolina again reminds us how little national election laws will avail to maintain the black man in his rights unless theegis of national protection is thrown around him as a man and a citizen, no less than as a voter. In the peaceful holiday time, when thoughts of peace on earth and good will to men are supposed to pervade Christendom, those two States have been witnessing outbreaks of barbarity which recall the doings of the ninth century rather than the professions of the nineteenth. Even assuming as true all that is said in justification of these onslaughts of white upon black, there remains an amount of ferocity and cruelty uncovered by this mantle of excuse which would have disgraced the heathen Vikings. Wholesale shootings of men, executions by the dozens without judge and jury, floggings of women and children, make up the Christmas record of two Southern towns in this enlightened and Christian country.

Very ominous for the future of the South is the appearance of the negro outlaw Brewer as the especial occasion of these atrocities in Georgia. He is the type of the desperado which the outlawry of the blacks is certain to produce. Such men were not unknown even before the abolition of slavery; but they are far more likely to be numerous and dangerous now, since they have command of arms and resent the denial of the liberty which the law pretends to give them. This man is a negro of great strength, familiar with all the hiding places, a dead shot with his rifle, and sure of aid and comfort from the whole colored population of his neighborhood, which is sure to regard him as the vindicator of its wrongs. Before long every disturbed neighborhood in the South will have its black Robin Hood after the same pattern, for nothing is more infectious than such examples as his.

THE statement is made that Henry W. Grady, a short time before his death, wrote to Mr. Watterson, of the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, expressing his submission to the latter's views in favor of Free Trade. Presuming the story true, it emphasizes what has been lately apparent,—that the Southern sentiment in favor of the Tariff is less out-spoken than it appeared to be a couple of years ago. There may be as many friends to Protection in Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee as there were, but if so they give fewer signs of the fact. Mr. Grady for a while openly and vigorously controverted the Kentucky coterie's ideas, but he was brought into line, for all practical purposes, in 1888, and he probably saw then and since that either he must kick over the party traces, or he must pull with the Free Trade team. And as he wanted to be, not an independent journalist,—who, in fact, could scarcely get breathing space in the South,—but a "good Democrat," there was but one course open to him.

As we look at it, now, it seems to us that while the contest over the Tariff is sure to be renewed two years hence as hotly as ever, the present Administration has weakened the Protectionist lines, and given renewed hope to their opponents. With the Republican organization confused and disheartened, and the Protection Democrats effaced, the result in 1892 does not look attractive, at this distance.

WE have considered elsewhere the prospects enjoyed by Mr. Windom's silver proposal. Evidently, its chances would not be so good if we had no legislation on the subject. But the Eastern organs of financial opinion regard it not only on its own merits as a method of dealing with the Silver problem but as a means of putting an end to the present coinage of seventy-two cent silver dollars, whose accumulation sooner or later must effect a disastrous hoarding of our gold currency. For this reason the amount of opposition developed in the Eastern money markets has been trifling in comparison with that which the Bland Bill encountered.

So far as there may be an idea that the proposed bullion certificates will serve the local needs of the South and West,—giving them a larger share of the instrument of trade and association,—it will surely fail of realization. These sections need the creation of independent centres of trade and industry through the diversification of employments, and in order to emancipate them from needless dependence on distant markets for their sales and their purchases. But neither Mr. Windom's certificates nor any other form of national money, centralized at the Treasury and its branches, will ever reach them in sufficient quantities to meet their wants. As with other moneys of this centralized character, the great bulk will be found to accumulate in the Eastern money markets and to stimulate the already excessive speculation in stocks. So much of it as makes its way to the districts most in need of it, will be loans on farm mortgages, on the terms which express eastern estimate of western security.

That which would help the South and West is not Silver Certificates but banks of issue which would supply a local currency for local uses. That they cannot have so long as the law stands unrepealed which taxes out of existence all banking currency that is not secured by United States bonds.

WHILE there are some rumors of a contrary character, it is said with a good deal of confidence that Mr. Wilson, of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, is sure of reelection to the United States Senate. Mr. Wilson represents the better element in the Democracy of his State and it is likely that if Mr. Gorman could have prevented his reelection he would have done so. But Mr. Wilson's friends appear to be too strong and too united to allow of this; and they have notified Mr. Gorman that opposition from him would imperil his own reelection two years hence. It is encouraging to discover that there is a limit to the number of States in which the one man power has absolute control of the movements of the dominant party.

OF the Presbyteries which have voted on Revision thus far, twenty have expressed their approval, and twelve have voted in the negative. The former include those of the cities of New York, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Rochester, Baltimore, and Cincinnati. Allegheny and Pittsburg have voted in the negative, and at a subsequent meeting of Pittsburg a majority voted to reconsider, but was prevented by the rule requiring two-thirds for that purpose. This sufficiently indicates the strong drift of feeling in the Presbyterian Church in favor of a shorter and less scholastic confession than that devised by the divines at Westminster. And it is notable that some of those who opposed revision long after the question had been started by the general assembly, are now among its most strenuous supporters. Thus Dr. J. T. Smith of Baltimore, published several articles against the proposal, but after further consideration helped to carry his own presbytery to its support. There has been no instance of such a change in the opposite direction.

Judge Drake of Washington, a type of the ultra conservatives, falls back on the Adopting Act of 1789 as putting an end to all chances of revision, since it declares that two-thirds of the presbyteries must agree before any change can be made. Mr. Henry Day of New York, characterizes this provision of the Adopting Act just as we did some weeks ago,—as an attempt of one legislature to tie the hands of its successors,—and shows from eminent legal authorities that such action is entirely *ultra vires*. He also shows that the Adopting Act does not form a part of the recognized Constitution of the Church, which provides for alterations to be approved by a simple majority of presbyteries, as was done in striking out the clause of the confession which forbade marriage with a deceased wife's sister.

THE Judge-Advocate-General, reporting that the offense of desertion is more frequent than any other in the army, and that 443 men were convicted of it during the past year, makes a num-

ber of suggestions for the cure of this evil. One is that every man who enters the service, whether as officer or private, shall be tattooed in a way to insure identification. Another is to raise the quality of the service by excluding from it persons convicted of crime, including the crime of desertion. A third is to enable a dissatisfied private to purchase his release from the service for a reasonable sum. None of these are sufficient to exterminate the offense complained of. The position of a soldier in the American Army has very little to make it desirable or even tolerable. The only path to the rank of officer is through West Point. As the consequence officers and men are separated by a barrier which is not tolerated even in the aristocratic nations of Europe. Every where but in America a man may rise from the ranks and aspire to the highest positions. But the American private carries no marshal's baton in his knapsack. To become a sergeant is the limit of the ambition allowed him. All this stands in the sharpest contrast to the freedom of promotion in every walk of our civil life, and constitutes the regular Army and also the Navy an aristocratic anomaly among our democratic institutions.

It is encouraging that the "canteen" system has been introduced at most of the military posts, to the great advantage of the men. This gives them pleasant rooms for society, reading, and smoking when off duty. But we observe no mention of anything like the night school system established for the young recruits of the British Army, and frequently taught gratuitously by the younger officers.

AFTER two years of vexation and inexcusable delay the City Councils are about passing an ordinance to enable the Reading Railroad to elevate its tracks and build a new and adequate city station. But the ordinance is framed, not to admit the road to Market street, as is desired, but only to Arch, and President Corbin, it is emphatically stated by Vice-President McLeod, will not accept such a change in the plans.

Now, why not permit the Reading to put its depôt on Market street? Because the Pennsylvania desires that it shall be stopped at Arch. The *Press* publishes the statement of a member of the City Council, to this effect:

"The Reading Terminal bill, fixing the limit at Arch street, is as sure to go through Select Council as it went through Common, and for the same reason, because the Pennsylvania Railroad wants it. Why, didn't the agent of the Pennsylvania Railroad go right on the floor of Common Council yesterday and move about among the members with as much freedom as the representatives themselves? It was, to say the least, an impropriety for these people to interfere in legislation affecting the Reading Railroad. It should have been resented by members of Councils. But there is no use attempting to disguise the fact that the Pennsylvania Railroad has great influence with many Councilmen. It comes from the excellent manner in which they treat the members."

The Pennsylvania Railroad, it has long been said, desires to extend its tracks, at some future time, from its depôt at Broad and Filbert streets, down Filbert to the Delaware, crossing there,—by a bridge, perhaps,—and connecting directly with its New Jersey system. This may be the reason why it directed the Councils to stop the Reading at Arch street. It may be, however, that it regarded this as another convenient means of halting the Reading improvement, and confining the operations of that company to its poor little stations at Green street and Callowhill street. The *Press* of Sunday printed a large picture to show that President Roberts blocks the way at Arch street, and that the Reading trains run into his pocket. This, as we understand it, was not a "cartoon" of the ordinary character, intended to suggest criticism or offer argument to the eye, but was presented simply as a record of existing circumstances.

ONE of the most energetic among the journals of Philadelphia in protesting that the City Councils should act for the public good, and not simply as they are requested by the "agent" of the Pennsylvania road, when he "moves about" in the chamber, is *The Manufacturer*, which is moved to use very strong language in re-

gard to the "agent," and even to suggest that he should be kicked. It is not likely, however, that this will deeply affect Councils. The same policy of delay and humbug which has been pursued for two years will be continued as long as the people of Philadelphia will put up with it. The representation of the *Press* that the whole business ends in Mr. Roberts's pocket is no doubt made upon knowledge, if not by authority.

It has been a good many months since THE AMERICAN suggested to the Reading officials that their company has very valuable and extensive surface rights, which they can make vastly more useful to them than they now are, and that since the city will not permit them to throw elevated bridges across its streets, it might be best to save time, labor, and expense, and develop the surface system. This suggestion seems to be still in order.

ON Monday a majority of the Board of Charities and Correction carried out Mayor Fitler's mandate with regard to the medical staff of the Pennsylvania Hospital. As Mr. Laughlin said, speaking for himself and his two associates, "It was forced upon us, and under the circumstances we could do nothing else." What the Board was forced to do was to depart from its uniform rule that places on the hospital staff shall be assigned according to the merits of the applicants, and without reference to the institution from which they graduated. Instead of this the principle was substituted that they must be chosen in something like equality of numbers from the graduates of the four medical colleges,—the University, the Jefferson, the Woman's, and the Medico-Chirurgical. The demand for this change was brought about by the agitation of the last and youngest of the four, an institution which confers a medical degree after two short years of study, instead of the three long ones now demanded by the two older colleges. Under the old rule the University furnished twenty-one members of the staff besides the four registrars; the Jefferson seven; the Woman's three, and the new college two. This was due largely to the fact that the longer course at the University had attracted the greater number of that class of students who were likely to fit themselves for specialist work in the hospitals. As a consequence the University holds the same relative prominence in the other hospitals of the city, whose staff appointments are open to general competition. But since Jefferson has adopted the three years' course, this apparent inequality would soon disappear, even without tampering with the rule of appointment on the basis of merit.

How little merit had to do with the selection in this case is shown by the removal of such a physician as Dr. J. William White from the staff of an institution he has done so much to advance. Along with him his especial friends and associates were marked out for slaughter, and a "ticket" was presented for adoption, of whose merits the majority of the Board neither knew nor needed to know anything, nor would give the minority,—Mr. McMurtrie and Dr. Cleeman,—time or opportunity to learn anything. The majority simply abdicated their proper functions as a board of election to give a legal sanction to a staff list prepared for the Mayor by some one behind the scenes, and handed on by him to his obedient servants, Messrs. Laughlin, Stewart, and Roberts. A more scandalous introduction of the methods of machine politics into the control of a great public institution of charity, has not been witnessed by this generation. Mr. McMurtrie did himself honor when he refused to vote either for or against the "slate."

The principle involved in such a change as this is of the most serious character for the future of our city as a centre of medical education. Mayor Fitler and his successors in office are committed by it to the recognition of every two-year or one-year medical college that may arise to share in the credit conferred in Philadelphia by such colleges as the University, the Jefferson, and the Woman's College. However little these new institutions may contribute to that credit or to the advancement of medical science, they all alike must share in so much of "patronage" as the Board of Charities and Correction has to bestow. And the united efforts

of the older institutions to give Philadelphia her former unique distinction of the Edinburgh of medical erudition will be met with all the resistance the city government can offer.

WHILE matters in Brazil have not been moving with so much smoothness as the friends of the new republic would desire, there is no evidence that the provisional government has lost its grasp of affairs. The chief, General Fonseca, who was said to be dying, was not critically ill, and the Minister of Finance, Barboza, has sent out a dispatch making a very fair explanation of some of the points on which there had been criticism, among the rest the fixing of so distant a date as November next for the election of a Constituent Assembly. The interval, it seems, is not so great as was used on a corresponding occasion under the imperial government, nor is it more than is necessary under the circumstances, in a country so large and so sparsely peopled as Brazil. As to the decree in relation to the naturalization of foreigners, it appears that they need not be naturalized if they prefer to retain their present allegiance.

No doubt European governments, excepting those which are republican or substantially that, would like to see Brazil fall into anarchy, and recede from the path on which her present leaders propose to move. Just as much on the other side it is the disposition, as it is the interest, of this country to hope that the revolution may go peacefully and successfully forward. The United States will not be too hasty in action while there remains a reasonable doubt whether popular government is really in preparation at Rio, and whether the Brazilian people will sustain it, but as a counterweight to European intrigues of royalists, imperialists, and aristocrats, it might be the duty of our republic to give its word of encouragement and support earlier than otherwise would be necessary or appropriate. It would be a great mistake for the United States not to establish itself as the close friend of the people of Brazil, in their republican movement, for aside from the principle involved, it is certain that in the long run free government will win. However we may have respected Dom Pedro, his rule is ended, and the chapter of imperialism closed. The accounts from Rio agree that whether the immediate future shall be quiet or disturbed, there will be some sort of popular government maintained.

THE charge brought by Capt. O'Shea against Mr. Parnell derives no credibility from the record and character of the accuser, who is a political adventurer of the worst type. And while it is true that many circumstances seemed to give it the air of plausibility,—almost, indeed, to leave scarcely any room for doubt of its truth,—there will be some regard paid to the fact that Mr. Parnell defies his accusers and boldly challenges the production of their evidence against him. This repeats, so far, the case of the forged letters: in that, too, it was his firm position of denial and defiance which gave the public confidence in his clearness. Undoubtedly, should he fail in exculpation, as Sir Charles Dilke did, it may be a grave matter, as to its influence on his leadership of the Irish people. They have never inclined to tolerate offenses of that character, after the easier fashion of England.

THE officers of the Peace Society, of London, especially the Secretary, Mr. William Evans Darby, have been making some effort to spread their principles in France, and a late issue of their journal, the *Herald of Peace*, reports the action of a meeting held in Paris in November, at which M. Frederick Passy, the distinguished philanthropist, presided. Those present included several of the "Protestant pastors" and members of their congregations, it having been thought desirable to secure their interest in the subject. To many of these, says the report in the *Herald*, "the Peace and Arbitration question seemed to be somewhat new and to be beset with difficulties. The terrible 'Alsace-Lorraine' question pressed heavily on their hearts. Some of them know little or nothing of the progress of the idea of Arbitration, and doubted whether it was practicable; while others believed that a

Peace propaganda would not be well received in France." Ultimately, it was thought some impression had been made on those present.

The *Matin* newspaper, of Paris, noticing the gathering, averred that whilst the meeting wished to see the principle of Arbitration extended, all "were unanimous in their resolve to maintain, under all circumstances, and by all means, our claim for the restoration of Alsace-Lorraine." And the *Herald of Peace*, in a foot-note to this, says that "everywhere in Paris we found this sentiment uppermost as a nationally unanimous resolve."

If, then, even among those who are selected as likely to be most friendly to Peace principles, the determination in reference to Alsace-Lorraine is thus strong, what may be estimated as the average sentiment of the French people?

FINANCIAL REVIEW.

NEW YORK.

AT the close of one year and the opening of another a brief glance backward at what has passed, and a look forward at what may be expected to come, may properly be in order; and the review has a special interest when the old year closes a decade and the new one opens another. Ten years ago the country was in the midst but nearing the culmination of a great revival of prosperity, and its attendant speculation, which followed several years of previous depression. The railroads were rushed with business, to an extent which taxed their powers to the utmost; rates were high, dividends large, our export trade enormous; every week nearly brought out some new railroad project, and Wall Street, as the financial centre of the country, was in a condition of feverish excitement. Prices were high and were daily going higher; money was made with intoxicating ease, and the daily transactions on the Stock Exchange averaged larger than they ever have since that period of inflation came to the usual end of general collapse. The personnel of the Street at that time was not the least worthy of note. There was Mr. William H. Vanderbilt and the Vanderbilt following, comprising many men of large wealth; Mr. Jay Gould and his following; James Keene, Charles Wörishoffer, D. O. Mills, Henry Villard, Addison Cammack, Henry Smith, D. L. Morgan, and other lesser men. All were active operators in the market. It was a concatenation of wealth, talent, and energy such as but rarely occurs, and marks an epoch when it does. Of all those men, but few now remain, and some who are still alive have practically ceased to be factors in the stock market.

In this period, railroad extension was greatest between New York and Chicago. It was then that the West Shore road was built, the Nickel Plate, the Buffalo extension of the Lackawanna, and innumerable small roads west of the Alleghenies and east of the Mississippi. The tide continued to rise upward until July, 1881. Warnings innumerable had been given that a panic was preparing, but those who prophesied were reviled as prophets of evil. In July of the year mentioned President Garfield was shot, and from that moment a complete change was observed in the public temper. The blind confidence that everything would go on everlastingly prosperous was shaken; then came doubt and distrust. People began to see what was going on around them. The previous winter had been one of extraordinary length and severity, inflicting enormous losses on railroad property everywhere; the spring had been marked by disastrous floods, from the melting of the vast bodies of snow; and the summer was one of killing drouth. It seemed as if nature that year had done her worst. The public had been blind to all this, but the rude shock of the President's assassination had the most far-reaching effect. Investors got cautious and distrustful. No more new bonds could be sold. They became a drug on the market. Cut off from their supplies, the new projects languished; railroads which had been paying dividends from borrowed money stopped paying them; others which had been paying interest in like way, began dropping into the hands of receivers. Prices had all the time been falling and falling in the market. With occasional rallies this thing went on till May, 1884, when the panic occurred. The lines between the seaboard and Chicago had either passed or reduced their dividends, and others had become bankrupt.

In the year 1885, when things were at their lowest, certain large bankers and capitalists, at the head of them Mr. Pierpont Morgan, bought up a majority of the securities necessary to carry out their project, and with the coöperation of Mr. W. H. Vanderbilt, made what is called "the West Shore deal." It included not only the turning over to the New York Central of the West Shore road under perpetual lease, but the rehabilitation of the Erie, and placing that property under a different and better management. This marked the turning point. From that time the railroad

situation in the East began to improve, and it may be said that the railroad system between the seaboard and Chicago is in better shape, and is to-day on a sounder basis, as a whole, than it ever was before. The new decade opens for it with every promise of a solid prosperity. The reconstruction process was also extended during the period from 1885 to 1890 to other great properties, as the Philadelphia and Reading; while another set of bankers came to the rescue of the Northern Pacific, and carried it through its worst times.

While, however, the Eastern roads were emerging from the low state to which excessive overbuilding and starving competition had carried them, the roads west of Chicago were on the road downhill from like causes. The trunk line situation, it was said, had been shifted west of Chicago. The western and southwestern companies had been prosperous, while the eastern roads had been brought low, and they had continued to use their credit for borrowing more and more money for railroad extensions until the same conditions which had formerly appeared in the east now appeared in the west. Excessive extension had brought fierce competition, rate wars had followed; then the price of agricultural products fell, and the State Legislatures took a hand in reducing rates. Dividends were reduced or passed; some roads went into bankruptcy, and a year ago at this time there was a general apprehension throughout the west that the year 1889 would be a dismal one for holders of granger railroad securities. At this time the eastern bankers began to bestir themselves to try and make some improvement. The Presidents' Association was formed, which has done considerable good in giving more stability to rates, also in checking further building of roads. But better than this, the crops turned out to be extraordinarily bountiful, so that the earnings made in the last half of the year on most of the western roads have been much larger than had been anticipated. The year has also been signalized by the reorganization of the great Atchison property, and other reorganizations are in progress.

In the west and southwest, therefore, the situation is that a new start has been taken towards better things, but it is still too new to say what the outcome will be. In the east, the railroad situation is sound and solid. In the south, a development is progressing which will run into a boom, to be followed by such reactions as have attended the development of the west. The coal trade in the east is the only unfavorable feature there, and it yet threatens to make trouble in the stock market, for the coalers are an important group of stocks and if they decline seriously it will hurt the market sympathetically.

The money situation is a warning to go slow on the bull side, notwithstanding the great prosperity reported. Time money is high, four and six months' loans freely commanding 6 per cent. This is an important consideration to note, because most of our stocks and bonds are selling on a 4 and 5 per cent. basis. Take this in connection with the exceedingly critical speculative situation in Europe, and it would seem that one had better err on the side of prudence now than the other way.

THE SILVER PROSPECT.

MR. WINDOM'S proposal concerning silver remains without any such response from the country as would conclusively show either its approval or its condemnation. There has been a conspicuous avoidance of the subject in most quarters. Doubtless many persons realize the difficulty of shedding new light upon a question so complicated and so uncertain, while another large class, including most of the Republican journals, do not desire to oppose the Administration even as to a proposal put forward so informally and tentatively. So far, even the President has said nothing further: he occupies yet the ground he took in his Message,—that he might have something to say about it, later.

It has been given out, however, that a large number of letters and other communications have been received by Mr. Windom, favoring the plan, and that a message to Congress, recommending it, will shortly be sent by the President. Presuming this announcement trustworthy, we may see, within a fortnight, a great change in the extent and character of the public expression. If the President shall decidedly approve the Secretary's proposal, the Republican newspapers generally will speak out upon that side. They do not now oppose Mr. Windom, they are waiting for a cue, and they are ready to support him if the President gives the word. And when he does so it is hardly probable that the measure will halt long on its way through Congress. If the mass of Republicans support it, there will certainly not be a solid opposi-

tion of the Democrats, and the affirmative strength, as in 1887 for the Bland bill, will be at least two-thirds in both Houses.

We look forward, therefore, to the adoption of Mr. Windom's plan, substantially as he outlined it in his Report. Such changes as may be made will be calculated to give greater security to the Treasury, as against the schemes of speculators to raise the "price" of bullion, and also as to the temptation offered foreign governments, especially Germany, to unload their stock of silver upon us. Doubtless something can be done to diminish the risks which have been pointed out in connection with these particulars, and to make it more certain that, while the Treasury's operations are in the hands of a scrupulously honest, and entirely clear-headed Secretary,—there can be no serious injury to the Government's fiscal interests arising out of the peculiar and unexampled process by which the Government is to "buy" the silver miners' output, and constitute itself a great warehouse for storing the one favored commodity. While the Secretary shall be scrupulously honest and entirely clear-headed, we say; for unquestionably the amount of discretion which must be reposed in him, in order to protect the Government and the public, will have to be extraordinary. Mr. Windom pointed out what he regarded as the serious objections to permitting a Secretary to make deposits of the surplus funds in the banks, but the system which he desires to adopt concerning silver will of necessity place a degree of power in his hands beside which the other is trifling. When the United States enters upon the business of supporting the silver market of the world, by Treasury purchases of bullion, to be limited in amount only by the Secretary's discretion, it need hardly be pointed out what a prodigiously great function is given to that official. It is possible that he may be able to exercise it without failure; but in a case where the process is so largely arbitrary, and so little one of natural economic movement, the difficulty is clearly increased along with the need for discretionary authority.

Looking upon the measure as we have done from the first with disfavor, as one not well calculated to bring about the most desirable result,—the restoration of silver coinage to equal companionship with gold in the world's circulation,—we still see how strong the likelihood is that it will be adopted, and that, like the Bland measure, we shall have to hope to see it prove of advantage to the public interests. There are some circumstances that will be considered by plain people in reference to the silver situation. It is true that the coinage of the two millions a month has not driven gold out of circulation, or wrecked the country's business, —though if our trade conditions had been different, it would have done so. It is also true that this silver coinage under the Bland bill has been practically absorbed by the country. What there is of it in the Treasury vaults is nearly all represented by certificates in circulation. And it is true, too, that the quotation of silver at London is not so low to-day as it was a few years ago; possibly we have gone to the lowest point, and the upward movement has begun. All these are facts that encourage the friends of silver, and while none of them are conclusive proof that those who apprehended injury from the Act of 1877 were wrong, they still are fairly part of the evidence that absolute conclusions and confident predictions are to be regarded with caution.

The purchase of silver bullion in large quantities, at the Treasury counter, and the issue of certificates therefor, is of course a measure increasing the volume of money in circulation, for these certificates, like those which the Treasury has been issuing against the coined dollars, will undoubtedly pass from hand to hand, at par. To the extent that they are issued they will be an increase,—perhaps an inflation,—of the currency. They will tend, therefore, to stimulate activity and raise prices. They will be, at first, popular. Whether ultimately they will bring about disaster depends upon so many conditions now impossible to forecast that only experience can resolve the problem. The conditions in the United States are different from those of other countries, and all over the world the circumstances of production and wealth are abnormal, if we are to regard as "normal" those which existed

at the beginning of the Century, or even those of forty years ago. With the enormous increase in the rate of production, and the overstocking of the world's markets in many articles of consumption, there has come a general decline of prices, and it may be that the demand which comes from those who bought houses and farms at the higher rates, for such an increase of currency as shall maintain those rates, and prevent their ruin, is a natural and legitimate indication which economists and financiers are bound to regard. It may be that the amount of "money" required,—notwithstanding the enormous employment of money of account,—is as abnormal as the vigor and capacity of the productive processes.

The risk to the country will come, no doubt, when the balance of trade shall be against us; when investments of foreign capital here shall, for any reason, cease,—if only for a time; and when gold must leave us to settle our debts abroad. Then as gold would be scarce and silver abundant, we would become a silver money country.

THE WOODS IN WINTER.

WHEN I walk in the woods in summer I think of the trees as a shelter. They go to form a protection alike against the sun and passing shower. And if I turn from the old cart-path it is but to enter some one side compartment of a great labyrinth of rooms. No one tree calls for observation. They are as the inner walls of a great house, and what they surround alone commands attention. It is going out of doors as much to leave the thick woods, as to pass from your dwelling. But now, during December's bright, cheery, winter days every tree in these same woods becomes my companion. We are exposed to the same sunny sky, and as I wander from one to another, each has its pleasant greeting for me. This has been a life-long fancy of mine. Walk up to a century-old oak, and how promptly it speaks to you of giant strength and sturdy independence; turn then to a stately liquid-amber and you are greeted with exquisite grace. I can point out in the old woods here at home the counterparts of many a man I know. The lonely wild apple on a gravelly knoll is as crabbed as my crusty neighbor who begrudges me a few flint arrowheads. I think I should be soured by wandering half a day in a forest of wild apple trees. There is no such feeling when with the oaks, beeches, chestnuts, and silver birch. They recall no unfortunates among one's acquaintance. Every tree of them is content with the world as it finds it, and so too am I when surrounded by them.

The woods were quiet when I entered. Not a twig trembled, and the dead leaves were too limp to crackle beneath my feet. Dainty frost crystals were plentifully strown over the dwarfed bushes by the roadside, and a film of glittering ice with jagged sides reached out from the banks of a little brook near by. Nowhere did the ice reach wholly across the stream and so was the more beautiful by reason of the inky waters that flowed sluggishly beneath it.

Where, about the roots of a massive beech, the brook had become a little pool, I stood for many minutes, alternately watching the waters that here seemed roused to a semblance of activity, and then listening to the welcome cawing of the over-flying crows. Brook, birds, and trees! Your choice of such good company, and yet there are those who would have gone mad here from loneliness! For the time I gave heed to the brook, wondering as usual what might be beneath the surface, and all the while, as ever happens, the creatures of the brook were wondering about myself. If one turns to the text-books he will find much said of the instinct that leads the lower forms of life to seek a safe shelter as winter approaches. The lower forms of life in this brook had no such intention. First, I detected dainty little frogs,—the peeping hylodes—squatted on dead leaves and yellow pebbles, and so spotted, splotted, and wrinkled were they, that it took sharp eyes to find them. Their idea of a shelter in winter is from enemies, and not the frosty air; and a little warmer sunshine to-day would have moved them to sing. Time and again during November they rattled and "peeped" almost as shrilly as ever in April, and they will again, if we are treated to a green Christmas.

The spirit of exploration seized me now, not I brushed the shallow waters with a cedar branch. Lazy mud minnows were whipped from their retreats and a beautiful red salamander, that I sent whizzing through the air wriggled among the brown leaves upon the ground. It was only after a hard chase that I captured it, and holding it in my hand until rested, I endeavored to induce it to squeak, for it is one of a very few that has a voice; but it was not to be coaxed. It suffered many indignities in silence and so shamed me by its patience that I gently placed it in the brook.

Soon, black, shining whirligigs—the gyrinus—suddenly appeared, and a turtle, as if wondering what might be the cause of the commotion, thrust its head in the air, stared angrily at me and returned to its hidden home. There was no dearth of life in the brook, yet this is a winter day. The ground is frozen and the rattle of wagons upon the highway penetrates even to this remote recess in the deep woods.

As a child soon tires of one toy, so I longed, after an hour's play, for a new field and other forms of life, and so much for serious study as that I might vary my amusement; but let not this apparent aimlessness be held unworthy of the rambler. Call it play if you choose, but the incidents of such a day come back in bold relief when with or without an effort they are recalled. I have found it most fortunate that unconscious cerebration is so active when I wander about, toying, as here by the forest brook, with many forms of life. More than half the acts of every creature I meet are apparently meaningless at the moment of their occurrence, but their full significance is evident when in thought I wander a second time over the same ground. Scarcely regarded incidents come well to the fore and throw a flood of light upon what lacked at the time any evidence, on the creature's part, of complicated thought.

Herein, I think, lies the secret of so much disappointment when some people—and they are many—wander in the fields. Filled with enthusiastic desire upon laying down the teeming pages of Thoreau and Burroughs, they expect to see with another's eyes and appreciate with another's brain. They see a bird, a mammal, or a host of butterflies, and then ask themselves, upon the spot, Well! what of them? The bare fact of their presence is all that the minds of inexperienced rambles encompass. The wild life they have met excites a passing thrill and they give no further heed to it. And it never occurs to many to recall the incidents. Being a bit disappointed then, why give heed to the subject later? On the contrary, if at the close of the day, in the hills and hollows of the blazing wood upon the andirons, if the walk was in winter, we picture the scenes of the recent ramble, these same birds or mammals, or whatsoever else we saw, will be seen again in a new light. Why those birds and not others were where we found them; why the field mice or rabbits or a weasel was where we saw them or it, will become evident. The various features of every visited spot will be remembered; and the cheery blaze upon the hearth tells us, as it were, the story that could not be read when facing Nature's open page. Some of us inveterate rambles read more than others, when in the fields, but no one can afford to trust to this alone. To extract the whole truth, the past must be recalled again and again.

As I whiled away the time with the tenants of the brook, so I gave heed to every passing bird, and what a strange panorama, as one kind after another flitted by! The happy association of woods and water here, as it attracted me, drew them to the spot, yet no one loitered long. The busy brown tree-creepers traced the crannies of the wrinkled oaks; the nuthatches followed, and their complaining squeaks seemed expressive of disappointment that so little food was to be found. Was this true? Were these little birds really complaining? It certainly seemed so. But how treacherous is this impression of seeming so! Too often, I fear, the rambler is content with it and goes his way convinced that what was vaguely apparent was the truth, the whole truth, and nothing more nor less. I hold it probably true that if every bird which found itself too late was disposed to complain, there would be a vast deal more quarreling than actually occurs. How little contention there is in the bird-world! While it is true that birds of a feather flock together, it is equally so that widely different species also amicably associate, and flagrant is the act that calls for punishment. Better luck next time is the homely proverb that actuates all non-predatorial bird-life.

But the merit of birds is their suggestiveness. Promptly following the nuthatches came the ever-welcome song-sparrow. It hopped, with spring-tide liveliness, among the dead leaves near the brook and then, flying to a hazel bush near by, it sang that sweet song that not even the mocking-bird ventures to repeat. The woods vanished, and the old garden with its goose-berry hedge was before me. I was a wondering child again, listening and looking at the happy bird, happy as itself.

It is December, the day is cold, the trees are leafless, the ground frozen; but not a thought of all this had clouded my joy for half a day. There is the elixir of perpetual summer even in the woods in winter, and happy is he who can find it.

Near Trenton, N. J.

CHARLES C. ABBOTT.

The fear is expressed in London that the visit of some 20,000,000 strangers to Paris during the Exhibition left it in such a terribly insanitary state that the evil local conditions have turned the influenza into a sort of virulent typhoid. The sanitary condition of the city is said to be very bad.

WEEKLY NOTES.

A PRACTICAL step is to be taken in the direction of Road Reform. A Committee has been formed, with Mr. William H. Rhawn as Chairman, Professor Lewis M. Haupt, Secretary, and Mr. William Hacker, Treasurer, to act in conjunction with the University of Pennsylvania in offering a series of prizes for the best papers on the improved construction of roads. These prizes will be respectively, \$400, \$200, and \$100, and the competitive essays are to be sent to Provost Pepper of the University, before April 5, 1890. Their subject "should include the engineering, economic, and legislative features of construction, reconstruction, and maintenance, and the advantage of thoroughly scientific treatment, but should omit history, excepting where necessary to illustrate or impress an argument. The papers should be terse, logical, and original, (not compilations). A paper may be the joint production of two or more persons." Copies of the circular, stating all details, may be had of Prof. Haupt, at the University.

It is proposed, the circular states, to make the essays to which the prizes shall be awarded, "the basis of an effort to secure an efficient organization for the creation and maintenance of better highways, not only in our immediate vicinity but throughout the State," and it is to be hoped it will be found practical to effect this. As we have already said, neighborhood improvement is a good thing as far as it goes, but there can be no general reform except by securing legislation that will make it possible for the whole State. Fortunately, the awakening of public interest in the subject is universal, and it hardly seems possible that a long period of discussion will be necessary before the work of practical improvement can be begun.

* * *

It is no doubt true, as the Committee suggest in their circular, that there is not any exact idea among average people what a good highway really is. We have been so accustomed to imperfect and rude roads, that few realize their radical deficiencies. On the Pennsylvania Railroad, years ago, it was found that the supervisors and track foremen were satisfying themselves with a condition of road much below what the management regarded as desirable and practicable. The plan was then adopted of having each supervisor prepare on his division a mile of sample track, brought up to the best condition which he thought possible; and when these sample miles were examined, it was made plain how much room for improvement there had been. The description which Mr. Pennell gave in his paper in *Harper's Weekly*, some time ago, of the main roads in France, could hardly be read by an American, we think, without a feeling of surprise and wonder at the precision with which they have been constructed, and the pains that are taken to keep them in first-rate order. In this country we have formed no such conception of the demands which a highway makes upon our time and expenditure, and there is abundant room for educating the popular mind on that point.

* * *

OUR correspondent in London thinks the new Liberal weekly, the *Speaker*, does well to secure as correspondents, in foreign countries, not simply "Englishmen residing there," but "citizens" of those countries, and that a happy example of the policy is found in the choice of Mr. Godkin, of the New York *Evening Post*. We are not altogether sure that Mr. Godkin may be correctly described as American. He has, of course, lived in this country a number of years, and he is a skillful and accomplished journalist; but neither in the *Nation* nor in the *Evening Post* has he recently appeared as one who preferred the interests of this country above all others,—without which, we take it, a man cannot be really American, no matter how many times he may have taken the oath of naturalization. It will be found, no doubt, that the *Speaker* will have the services of a correspondent at New York who thinks that any economic system of this country which tends to discourage the import of English products is absurd, if not sinful, and that so long as the majority of the American people hold to the contrary, the country is branded with discredit. And that sort of correspondence, while it may please the editor of the *Speaker* and his readers, does not correctly represent the sense and the purposes of the United States of America.

* * *

MANY scholars who attended the meeting of the eighth International Congress of Orientalists, at Stockholm, in September last, came away with impressions that somehow the lavish hospitality and magnificent entertainment had an unfavorable influence on the scientific results of the meeting. This feeling was so general that a paper is now being circulated in England and on the Continent with a view of preventing a similar outcome of the Congress to be held three years hence. The great banquet which was held on September 7th has however an interesting side which may fairly be said to have been of scientific value. There was prepared for this occasion a *menu*, each dish being described by an appro-

priate poem composed by some distinguished scholar. Max Müller sings the praises of salmon in a Sanskrit poem in the genuine Indian style. It concludes:

"Come together and look at him, how red his flesh, how beautiful his shape, how he shines like silver!

"When this fish has been well steeped in a sauce such as emperors love, full of sweetness and delight,

"Then indeed we long for him here at this Congress—the lovely one, a joy to look at, meant to be eaten by men and women."

This menu was printed by the well-known house E. J. Brill of Leyden, in exquisite style, and a few copies have found their way to this country. The various languages represented give an excellent idea of the scope of the Congress. It includes the Egyptian dialect of Arabic, Chinese, Ethiopic (by Dillman), Malay, Syriac, (by Nöldeke), Hebrew, Mandschu, Javanese, Akkadian (by Sayce), Turkish, Coptic, Egyptian hieroglyphic, Himyantic, Bichari, classic Japanese, classic Arabic, and Persian. America finds place in a cuneiform Assyrian poem by Haupt on the monster who usually appears after a great banquet and the proper means to slay him. The wit and at the same time the scholarship which many of these productions exhibit, together with the beauty of execution, render this little book a unique publication in the history of scientific Congresses.

NOTWITHSTANDING the fact that 1890 belongs to the same decade as 1889, most people seem to regard it as the beginning of a new decennial period, and consequently the turning over of the new leaf, which we hear of on the first of every January, has doubtless been performed this week with more than usual fervor. It is never too late to mend, and good resolutions are always in order, but it may not be impertinent to suggest that those resolutions are most easily kept which do not deal with a too-distant future. Let us do the duty which lies immediately before us; let our reformation be here and now. If we are always careful to do well to-day, we shall have no morrows to fear and no yesterdays to regret.

APPRECIATION of the better order of music appears to be growing in Philadelphia, and if our leading musical organizations could be consolidated, or some arrangement effected whereby the best material of the several societies could be brought under a single baton, for the rendition of oratorio, we might reasonably look forward to the time when this city should become a centre of musical culture. We have more than one excellent chorus, and several good glee clubs, any of which might profitably take the initiative in this matter. Meanwhile such popular concerts as those given every Thursday afternoon in the Academy of the Fine Arts are doing good service in the elevation of popular taste.

Indeed it would seem that here, as elsewhere, the artistic appetite grows by what it feeds on. Already there is a lively interest manifested in the next concert of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, to take place January 15, and Mr. Nikisch is certain of a warm welcome.

Mr. Sarasate, a violinist of wide repute, and Mr. D'Albert, the distinguished pianist, will give two concerts next week which bid fair to draw appreciative and probably large audiences to the Academy of Music. Altogether the musical outlook is brighter than might be supposed from the forebodings and head-shakings of those who are always talking of our artistic decadence.

MR. ANDREW LANG has been telling people "how to fail in literature." There was no sufficient evidence that the public needed instruction upon this point; indeed it would seem that about ninety-nine per centum of all aspirants are adepts in the art of failure. Besides, Mr. Lang tells us nothing new; we all know the rocks in the channel. If the gentleman will only kindly tell us how to get our crafts into the swift, deep current of success, we shall hold him in higher esteem.

A WRITER in the *Atlantic* holds that a sense of humor is indispensable to the mental equipment of a serious poet, and cites Wordsworth and Matthew Arnold as conspicuous examples of poets quite destitute of this sense. In parliamentary phrase, the point is well taken. An apprehension of the humorous in life and literature is essential to the serious poet, not because he needs to use it, but because a failure to recognize it betrays him into unconscious bathos. Many a great utterance has been robbed of its finest flavor by reason of an unfortunate phrasing whereby a ludicrous suggestion is forced upon the reader's attention at the moment when a high seriousness of mind is most to be desired. It is well that one should be reminded of the value of humor as an element in nearly all imaginative work,—well, also, that we should recognize how broad is the line which separates humor from wit.

The *Atlantic* writer hides behind the anonymity of the "Contributors' Club," but one is tempted to hazard a shrewd guess as to her identity.

THE American Historical Association has just concluded its fifth annual meeting in Washington. There were many papers of interest and a number of new facts with regard to General Washington, notably in the paper of Dr. G. Brown, Goode were brought out. It would be impossible to do justice to the material presented. The meeting had a significance for the study of American History, however, to which attention should be called. By its charter derived from Congress, the Association will annually present a report through the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. For the first year this report will consist in a Bibliography of the members of the Association, supplemented, possibly, by reports from the various State Historical Societies. The connection between the Association and the Smithsonian Institution authorized by Congress has commenced to work itself out, Dr. G. Brown Goode, Assistant-Secretary of the Smithsonian, being elected a member of the Council, and Mr. A. Howard Clark, Curator of Historical Relics in the National Museum, Curator of the Association. The next move will be, no doubt, to attempt to arrange, make accessible, and finally publish the national archives. Another advantage of the association of American historians on other than States lines is the information that men from different parts of the country are able to give one another with reference to the whereabouts of historical documents. The example for this was set by writers on the history of the Southern States. Yet another result was the familiarizing of the members with the resources for historical study of the Smithsonian Institution, the Library of Congress, and the Library of the Department of State. It was decided to meet again next year in Washington.

FACT AND FANCY.

FACT, in the garish light of day,
Flods oft through flinty ways,
And his strong feet are burned beneath
The sun's intemperate rays.

But when he pauses for a draught
At Fancy's fountain deep
The nymph sheds slumber on his eyes,—
And thus he falls asleep!

WILLIAM H. HAYNE.

SOME NEW LONDON PAPERS AND REVIEWS.

[FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

THE principal literary and artistic excitements of the New Year in London promise to be altogether journalistic. Three new papers, one of which is to be illustrated, are announced for January, and at least two others are shortly to follow after.

Of all, perhaps the most interesting is the new venture of the proprietors of the *Graphic*, who are about to issue a *Daily Graphic*, the first number of which will appear on the 4th of January. That the present enormous development of illustration, due to improvements in photographic reproduction and printing, will eventually lead to illustrated daily papers, no one who has watched it can doubt. Indeed, already the experiment has been made, though not very successfully, for the triumphant birth of the London *Daily Graphic* comes very close upon the death of the New York sheet of the same name. It is true the Paris *Charivari*, which has been published for many years, still survives, but it is a comparatively small paper, never containing more than one good-sized cut and a few unimportant small ones. Dailies, like the London *Pall Mall* and *Star*, that occasionally print a portrait or even a short illustrated article, can scarcely be considered seriously in this connection. And certainly nothing of the size and scope of the new *Daily Graphic* has hitherto been undertaken. It will consist of 16 pages, and better work, better printing, and better paper will be used than anything yet attempted by American Sunday papers. Its circular explains that it will give all the usual telegraphic news, and leaders and notes on the various topics of the day: "Long leading articles will be avoided, but comments on the incidents of the day will be written by authors of the first eminence. Special articles by persons of well-known social or political distinction will be prominent features, such contributions being signed by the writers . . . and it will be illustrated by rapid sketches from the hands of the cleverest artists." And all this will be sold for a penny a copy! That mechanically, the printing of such a paper is now possible, Mr. Thomas, the director of the *Graphic*, assures us. For its literary and artistic excellence he answers with a long list of names of some of the most prominent literary men and artists as contributors. The *Graphic*

has the money necessary for such a venture, which means enormous expense. The popularity of the weekly at least ensures attention being drawn to the daily, which thus has every chance of success, that is, as far as its financial fortunes are concerned. When it comes to its artistic success, however, and this alone is of real importance, one cannot but have one's doubts. Though the names of many leading draughtsmen are on the list of contributors, it does not necessarily follow that much of their work will appear. In the weekly *Graphic*, where the art editor is not so pressed for time as he will be for the daily issue, the illustrations have been fast degenerating since the days of Herkomer, Luke Fildes, Fred. Walker, and the other admirable English draughtsmen of some twenty years ago, who established it on a sound, artistic basis, until to-day, artistically speaking, they are as a rule beneath notice. Few artists now look for its coming as they do for that of the *Century* or *Harper's*, of *Fliegende Blätter*, or *La Revue Illustrée*. With the general public, however, its degeneracy has not lessened its popularity, and it is this fact which makes one wonder if the directors who have allowed the weekly to fall to the level of its subscribers will bestir themselves to raise the daily, a much more difficult publication to edit well, to a higher standard. It must be confessed that the preliminary number they published a couple of weeks ago gives one but little hope. For this, there was no hurry, no reasonable excuse for commonplace, indifferent work. But from the decorative title to the drawings of Waterloo,—which an illustrator, had there been illustrated papers a hundred years ago, might have made,—there is not the faintest promise of anything better than the very second-rate illustrations to which readers of the weekly *Graphic* have long been accustomed. The new paper will in all probability be adapted to the audience to whom it appeals, unless some new incentive from without forces its directors to new efforts to maintain their once high standard.

Now it so happens that there is a chance of such an incentive being given; for another new illustrated paper is to make its appearance while the new year is still young. It is to be, not a daily but a weekly, intended to rival, and of course far surpass, both the *Graphic* and the *Illustrated News*. Little has yet been said about it by way of advertisement, but it has been much discussed out of the papers, as many literary men and artists have not only agreed to work for it but have put money in it. For a really good illustrated weekly there is room and to spare in England; whether the need for it is felt is another matter. For a second—or third—rate publication of this kind, there is no place whatever; the *Graphic*, the *Illustrated News*, and the three or four others now published amply meet the public demand. The new venture depends altogether upon artistic excellence for success, and this excellence the directors declare is their one and only object. The question therefore is what means have been taken to secure it. But first of all, I shall state that the new paper is to be called *Black and White*, a name which, while it is expressive enough to the few, means nothing to the many and is therefore, I think, an unfortunate choice. From what one hears, the selection of nominal art editors to serve as the figure-heads, considered so indispensable in England, is scarcely more fortunate. Whether really good working men are behind these figure-heads remains to be seen. But if they are not it is doubtful whether the paper will prove strong enough to compel the *Graphic* and the *Illustrated News* to produce better work in self-defense.

A third paper of interest to artists, though it will not be illustrated, is a weekly art journal, to be called the *Art World*, which two or three young artists have in hand. They have made no announcements as yet, however, so it will be sufficient to say here that it is to be purely a trade journal; as nothing of this kind has heretofore been published, it ought to be a success. Besides these new enterprises, several changes are to be made in certain monthlies, of already more or less reputation. The *Scottish Art Review* is to drop the *Scottish*, though it might seem more appropriate to retain it, as the *Review* is to be absorbed by Walter Scott, who is fast becoming a sort of universal publisher and bookseller. The *Portfolio* is coming out with a new cover and several additional pages, Mr. Hamerton having lately been in London to superintend this new departure. The *English Illustrated*, and *Time*, and the *Portfolio* too for that matter, seem just at the present moment to have been captured by the Socialists. *Time* has for new editor Mr. Bel-fort Bax, who has written several books on Socialism, while William Morris, Walter Crane, and others of their "comrades" figure largely on his list of contributors, and Mr. Crane is to the fore in the *English Illustrated* and *Portfolio*. How long they continue in possession depends very little on their socialistic creed. One always listens with interest to Mr. Morris, but some of his hangers-on and followers are sure to contribute to anything but the success of schemes with which they are associated.

A weekly to which politicians are looking forward is the *Speaker*; its first number, with the *Daily Graphic*, is to appear on the 4th of January. It is to be the organ of Liberals and Home

Rulers, and is modelled on the New York *Nation*, rather than on the *Saturday Review* or *Spectator*. Its notices of books will give it a literary value, and an excellent feature ought to be its signed letters from regular correspondents abroad, who are to be not Englishmen residing there, but citizens of the different foreign countries. This is a good idea, and the securing of Mr. Godkin of the New York *Evening Post* as American correspondent is worthy of it. But the choice on the Continent has in several cases not been so happy. And despite the very complimentary things being said about him in the liberal press, neither does the appointment of Mr. Wemyss Reid as editor seem the happiest. Author of one or two novels of but small merit, and of the *Lives of Charlotte Brontë* and Forster, which demanded notice rather for their matter than their quality; editor of a provincial paper for several years, he is not a man of great distinction as author, scholar, or journalist. His staff is not overwhelmingly brilliant, though it includes some very good names, and from all one hears, the paper though supposed to represent the progressive party in England, will rather be representative of middle-class mediocrity and respectability. Of course Mr. Gladstone and the Liberal leaders are counted among its contributors, but this means nothing, as they can be claimed by all liberal papers. Mr. Augustine Birrell of "Obiter Dicta" fame, is to do a *literary causerie*, whatever that may be. The theatre is to be criticized by Mr. George Augustus Sala, who certainly cannot figure as a progressive dramatic critic; a more thoroughly conservative type of English journalist could not be found; while art will be dragged around at the heels of Mr. Oscar Wilde. It is universally admitted that a worse selection could not have been made than these two professional hacks and notoriety hunters. At a dinner given by Mr. Reid to contributors the other evening, Mr. Henry James and Mr. William Black were present; the latter is not known for his critical work, but Mr. James ought to make the reviews worth reading; that is if he really does consent to write them. Why Sir James Linton was included among the guests, it would be difficult to say, as the only work that might fall to his share has been bespoken for Mr. Wilde. Other notable men at the dinner were Mr. Frederick Harrison and Mr. Bryce, but how much they will contribute no one knows, nor is it probable that contributions from them will altogether come under the definition progressive.

To this list of new journalistic publications must be added the *Review of Reviews*, to be issued monthly, beginning in January. The chief or perhaps only interest attached to it, is the fact that it is to be edited by Mr. W. T. Stead, who has made himself notorious in England during the last few years as editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and who is one of the few journalists personally known to the public. It was to him was due the famous Maiden Tribute of several summers ago, the Langworthy divorce case, and much of the excitement over the Trafalgar Square open-air meetings of last year. But while these things and others now forgotten, achieved notoriety for him, they contributed little to the fortunes of the paper, and for the past twelve months it has been an open secret among journalists that his connection with the *Pall Mall* was about to be brought to an end. As he has hitherto always succeeded in making his strong personality felt in whatever he has done, one has naturally waited with interest to see what his next move would be. His present scheme therefore comes somewhat as a disappointment. To an American who has had his *Littell* for years, there is nothing very novel in the idea of collecting articles from the leading magazines. Mr. Stead only proposes to quote short extracts from them, but respect for copyright laws has had probably much to do with this moderation. He will accompany these with descriptions and comments, but I fear many will be of the mind of Prof. Huxley, who in answer to a letter asking for his opinion of the new scheme, wrote with pleasing candor: "We have too much criticism already. I am not quite sure that extracts are fair to authors. I mean in the sense that passages without context often give a very wrong impression of the writer's meaning." As for the *Review of Reviews* serving as an index to the magazines, an idea which seems to have impressed a dozen or more other prominent men also appealed to for an opinion, surely all one needs is at one's club or library to glance over the tables of contents of these magazines which, if they deserve to be called leading, can surely be found there. However that may be, Mr. Stead now feels that he will no longer appeal to one small section of mankind, but through his new organ will be extending the blessings of his influence over the whole world.

REVIEWS.

SEVEN THOUSAND WORDS OFTEN MISPRONOUNCED. By William Henry P. Phye. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1889.

WHEN the amiable Spectator and his friends twitted Will Honeycomb with the "several words wrong spelt" in his youthful letters to "a coquette lady," Will retorted "with a little passion, that he never liked pedantry in spelling, and that he spelt

like a gentleman, and not like a scholar." Perhaps, too, he pronounced "like a gentleman, and not like a scholar," as, very likely, his grammar was open to criticism.

Now, the Will Honeycomb class is still very large among English-speaking people—much larger, perhaps, than in any other cultivated nation; and there is, besides, that even larger class of people, who find an unabridged dictionary an extremely clumsy and time-wasting book. To all such persons Mr. Phyfe's little volume comes with especial grace. Of all the elements of grammatical purity, pronunciation is most sadly neglected by most speakers; while even "scholars" are especially liable to this form of error in speech. In the Babel of sounds around us, most fortunate is he whose habit is not contaminated, if only by imitation. All language, of course, is learned by imitation; and what is bad seems by far most easy to learn.

We have tested Mr. Phyfe's little manual at many points, and we feel sure that he has not claimed too much for it in several respects:—(1) that the list of words is more than ordinarily complete; (2) that the number of proper names included is "unusually large;" (3) that many, and the most necessary, foreign words and phrases are given; (4) that the pronunciations are most carefully indicated; (5) that varying pronunciations are not overlooked in cases of "divided use;" and (6) what is of paramount importance, that the book contains only such words as are liable to be mispronounced—not merely, or chiefly, such as no one would probably ever want to look for. Better even than all this, Mr. Phyfe is, as a rule, correct in the pronunciations he gives. Quite as much as the authoritative works of Webster and Worcester or Stormonth or any other lexicographer, Mr. Phyfe's book may be trusted.

At the same time, we have also a bone or two to pick with Mr. Phyfe. We confess that we cannot always make out what his standard of purity in pronunciation is. At times he would seem to have pinned his faith to the dictionaries; again he is guided by good use; at other times he evidently appeals to underlying principles. Now, the dictionaries are but human; and when good use is not easily ascertained, our only recourse would seem to be to underlying truth. But Mr. Phyfe apparently does not rank his sources of knowledge in this order of importance: rather he appears to consider them all of equal authority, and to base his decisions on any one or more of them at random—or, if this phrase be too strong, without any clearly shown principle of judgment. For example: (p. 273) "*Interpolate*—in-ter-po-lat. In-ter-po-lat is an old pronunciation of Webster's." Only of his? Does Mr. Phyfe mean that it is merely an arbitrary *dictum* of Webster's? Then it should have been omitted, exactly as in-ter-po-lat, often heard, but wholly without authority, has been. There are "dictionary" pronunciations as well as "dictionary" words. Or again, (p. 272): "*Intercalary*—in-ter-ka-la-ri; sometimes in-ter-kala-ri." Who ever heard the first pronunciation? Or on what principle does it rest? On the other hand, (p. 101): "*Bicycle*—bi-sik-l, not bi-si-kl. The second syllable, being unaccented, has naturally the short sound of *i*." Here Mr. Phyfe evidently appeals to law. Usage would have given him *bi-sik-l*, *bi-si-kl*, and *bi-si-kl*; while Webster (Supplement) says *bi-cy-cle*, and Worcester (Supplement) says *bi-cy-cle*, his *y* having the "obscure" sound. Similarly, (p. 100): "*Beyroot*—ba-root, not ba-root; Turkish pron. *bi-root*." Again some principle seems to control Mr. Phyfe. Usage is certainly rather in favor of *bi-root*, and the authorities are divided. Cf. (p. 101) *bi-og-ra-fer*, not *be-og-ra-fer*, though usage certainly sanctions the latter as an alternative. In still other cases, Mr. Phyfe's only test would seem to be usage. (P. 100): "*Bethsaida*—beth-sa-id-a or beth-sa-da;" and (pp. 158, 387, 469): "*Contrary*—kon-tra-ri, never kon-tra-ri;" "*quandary*—kwon-da-ri or kwon-da-ri;" but "*vagary*—va-ga-ri, not va-ga-ri;" while the sound of *a* usually heard in the syllable *da* in these words, viz., *à*, as in *dare*, *care*, *air*, is not even noticed.

But nothing is easier, or more unfair perhaps, than to criticize books that treat of the difficult, because arbitrary and unsettled questions, of English pronunciation. Especially is the pronunciation of foreign words in English a much mooted question. Determine principles as we may, inquire most closely into good use on the subject, or consult authorities as we will, the question so far remains a *res non adjudicata*. Of one thing we are sure. No speaker of English can fail to be benefitted, certainly to be assisted, by a careful study of Mr. Phyfe's "Seven Thousand Words Often Mispronounced."

PROVINCIAL FRANCE, SOCIAL LIFE, ADMINISTRATIVE MORALS. [La France Provinciale, Vie Sociale—Mœurs Administratives.] By René Millet. Paris: Hachette.

The old notion that Paris is France is slowly being given up by those who see how much strength there is outside of the great capital. Mr. Millet has added a final proof of the power and importance of French Provincial life in this attractive book, well

worth careful study. In nothing is the Republic of to-day stronger than in the support of the great mass of the people outside of Paris, and this fact has largely removed the turbulent element of that city from consideration as a factor in any future change in the government of France. The two millions of people in Paris can no longer control or intimidate the thirty-six millions of Frenchmen who make the strength and wealth of that great country in their homes outside the capital. The year 1871 did a great service for France in arousing anew the feeling of local independence. It set the people at work thinking for themselves, and when they found that the government could exist outside of Paris, it roused them to the heroic efforts which secured to France its present wholesome growth in the path of republicanism.

M. Millet starts from this point, and sketches in a masterly way the characteristics of provincial France, its variety and wealth of resources, its various elements, social, religious, political, economical, and especially in detail the clergy, the land owners, the townspeople, the peasants, the villages, the homes, giving to each its proper proportion of influence in the group thus formed. The second part of his book gives an admirable account of the history of the principal local centres, and of the rise and growth of local institutions, the changes made in them by the great revolutions that have swept over France, and of the local government that now begins for the first time to take firm hold in the breasts of Frenchmen throughout the country. The local divisions of France were carefully arranged in 1790, and while the system then adopted made important changes, it was based on sound reason and was executed with care and precision. A hundred years of experience has confirmed its wisdom. Local self-government is now fairly introduced in the Municipal Assemblies, and the discussions there between the representatives of different classes are productive of much good in teaching thoroughly the great lessons of legislative discussion as the best method of securing good administration. M. Millet points out very clearly the disadvantages arising from the centralization of power in Paris, from the enormous number of persons employed in the public service, estimated at 380,000, one per cent. of the whole population. Universal suffrage chooses over 400,000 unpaid representatives to look after local affairs, and the natural result is an enormous increase in local expenditures, taxing the resources of the government, of every department and town, and postponing the introduction of many useful reforms until receipts and expenditures are balanced. M. Millet pleads for changes that will produce this and other good results, for giving local authorities larger powers for the repeal of the close scrutiny still exercised in Paris over purely local affairs in distant places, for reducing the interference of the authorities of Paris, or rather of the general government there, in local matters, thus diminishing the constant appeals to Paris for authority to do that which can be better done independently. He especially urges that local finances should be made independent of those of the general government, thus giving both larger freedom of action. He emphasizes three noteworthy points: the power shown by France to recover from great blows, the internal peace and prosperity that have enabled it to do this, and the resistance and elasticity of the local governments that have preserved the divisions of France, from the smallest commune to the largest of its departments, in wholesome, robust strength. His book has the charm of clear, succinct style, and the merit of dealing with a subject that is too little known in or out of France.

STRANGE TRUE STORIES OF LOUISIANA. By George W. Cable. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1889.

In this volume Mr. Cable collects a series of stories of Louisiana, all of which he gives us emphatically to understand have come into his hands as veritable narratives of actual experience. In his prefatory chapter, "How I Got Them," he explains very particularly the manner in which, from different persons, at sundry times, the documents became his property, and all of them, it appears, he prints without alteration or adaptation,—except where, in passages of a few lines, he condenses a longer statement in detail.

It will be owned, we think, by every candid reader, that all the stories are deeply interesting, and that they surprisingly justify the view expressed by Mr. Cable, that good stories happen oftener in real experience than we think. All these are simple, straightforward chapters of life, most of them narratives in the first person, and none containing any fictitious setting or arrangement, yet they present every element which a fiction writer could desire,—they run the gamut from genial humor and *bonhomie* to the darkest and most painful tragedy. Such, then, is life.

The first of the series is the letter of a woman, "The Young Aunt with white hair," written in 1782, in Louisiana, describing to her brother the terrible fate that had befallen her,—the capture by cannibal savages, on the Gulf Coast, of the ship in which she was coming from Europe, and the murder of her husband and

child, with her own horrible mutilation as well. This is certainly not a pleasing story, even if true, and of all the collection it seems most open to question. Were there cannibals on the Gulf Coast in 1782? The other stories all have abundant *vraisemblance*, especially the last, the diary of a Southern woman who sees in New Orleans the bursting forth of the rebellion, and later endures hardships, privations, and dangers, as the wife of a Confederate, her journal recording these minutely down to the capture of Vicksburg. Perhaps the most impressive of all,—though none are wanting in emphatic quality,—is the narrative of the enslavement of the white woman Salome Müller, with the desperate and protracted struggle in the courts for her emancipation. There are very few chapters of history more simply or more strongly condemnatory of the institution of Slavery than the record of this case, as drawn from the cold and formal documents of the courts.

Altogether, this collection of stories confers new credit upon the artistic judgment and skill of Mr. Cable, who we believe has not yet added to the bulk of our literature a vain or valueless book: more than this, however, it shows him again as among the writers whose pen is national, not provincial, and patriotic, not sectional. His strange true stories of his native State will give every one who reads them a freshened and deepened interest in the people who are described,—such sweet and charming characters as Françoise and Suzanne, Alix and the Countess Madelaine, for example,—while the moral thread which runs through the whole book and gives it a homogeneity not at first obvious, is one that will not help to spread sedition among the citizens of a united and unified country. Mr. Cable deserves praise on all accounts for this book, and it will itself be foremost in procuring him due credit.

COAL AND THE COAL MINES. By Homer Greene: With Illustrations from Drawings by the Author. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

This very practical, but extremely interesting, little volume, forms one of the series of the "Riverside Library for Young People." Mr. Greene knows the coal region thoroughly, as his stories of miners' life show, and he gives a remarkably full and complete amount of the origin, development, and present condition of the mines that tap the great Pennsylvania coal-basins; and in describing them has covered the whole ground,—the same general statements applying to the coal-mines of the world. Sufficient space is given to "the geological history of the earth's crust" to acquaint the reader with the origin of the coal-seams and the nature of the adjacent strata; after which the discovery of the coal and its introduction into use are described at considerable length. In the vehicle of the author's terse, vigorous language, the reader is then taken down into the subterranean passages, where he is almost made to see the operations of mining the fuel, so vividly and picturesquely is the information conveyed. Interesting and valuable statistics are quoted, amusing incidents are related, entertaining descriptions and wise suggestions are given and made, and, taken altogether, though dealing largely with what is essentially dry in its nature, the book makes good reading for the old as well as the young.

In more than one place it is fully impressive; an example worthy of note being found in the pages from 140 to 146 inclusive, where a graphic account is given of the heroism of Alexander Boyden, foreman of the Carbondale mines at the time of the great fall of the mine-roof in 1846. The area of the fall was from forty to fifty acres; fourteen miners were killed, and more than half of the bodies could not be reached. The narrative is from the lips of a son of the hero of the disaster, and one seldom comes upon so powerful yet so simple a story. The incidents there related would have given Hugo the basis of a chapter equal to his description of Valjean's journey through the sewers of Paris. On the other hand, an amusing scene that is described towards the close of the book will give an idea of the author's style: "One afternoon I chanced to be in a certain mine in the Wyoming district, in company with the fire-boss. We were standing in a passage that led to one of the mule-ways, (narrow tunnels or 'slopes' through which the mules are taken into and out of the mines). In the distance we heard the clattering of hoofs, growing louder as it came nearer, and as we stepped aside, a mule went dashing by with a boy lying close on his back, the flame from the little lamp in the boy's cap just a tiny backward streak of blue that gave no light. They had appeared from the intense darkness and had disappeared into it again almost while we could draw a breath. I looked at the fire-boss inquiringly.

"Oh that's all right," he said, "they've got through work, and they're going out, and the mule is in just as much of a hurry as the boy is."

"But the danger," I suggested, "of racing at such speed through narrow, winding passages, in almost total darkness!"

"Oh!" he replied, that beast knows the way out just as well

as I do, and he can find it as easy as if he could see every inch of it, and I don't know but what he can. Anyway the boy ain't afraid, if the mule ain't."

Mr. Greene's book will doubtless interest his young readers, and while it may perhaps be regretted that a simpler style has not been used in places,—a style more like that in which Prof. S. P. Langley's "The New Astronomy" is written,—the volume is so interesting, so admirably arranged, and so complete in its illustrations, index, and glossary, that if all the other issues of the "Library" prove as good as this one, the set when completed will be valuable indeed.

THE "SCRATCH CLUB." By H. A. Clarke, Mus. Doc., Professor of Music in the University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: "Poet Lore" Company.

So little writing upon music is done in this country by men who are at once musicians and qualified to write sensibly and eloquently about it, that when a man like Mr. Clarke shows a willingness to share his knowledge with the public, the incident must be rated as significant. Mr. Clarke has, as this performance stands, hardly done himself or his theme justice, but even as it is, there is all the difference in the world between the matter here set forth and the musical ravings of most of the contemporary critics who painfully show in every line that they hardly know one note from another. Here we have evident knowledge and as evident ideas, and we dare to call "The Scratch Club," slight a performance technically as it is, a notable addition to the small library of American musical literature. We can conceive of it as entirely leading all books that have been produced on "this side" on the subject, but to do so it must be somewhat recast and materially elaborated. It would seem to be worth the author's while to do this. Much of an audience, possibly, he might not have in any case,—people who could and would care to follow him,—but that is another matter. We think that he has here suggested a new and valuable idea, and that far more might and should be made of it.

A new set of Noctes Ambrosianæ are these, but with interest mainly centered on a single theme. A string-quartette club has the agreeable custom, after the evening's playing, of settling to an informal discussion of musical subjects. Occasional guests bear a hand, and the gathered report of these pointed sayings of picked men, as made by Mr. Clarke, makes the best kind of reading. The club idea is so good a one that we are not reconciled to finding one of the members treated as the butt of the remainder of the company. In such a little republic that would be an unlikely conjunction, nor is it altogether in reason to represent the unfortunate second violin as consistently opposed to classical music the while he is an intimate of these savage companions,—we fail, in fact, to see what Mr. Parks can be doing in a string quartette. Another fault we have to find is with some of the stories, etc., told by the members at the meetings. Some of this matter has a certain musical connection, but it is not what people who will care for the main idea will relish. There is plenty of this sort elsewhere, and done perhaps better than Mr. Clarke can do it; we want to hear from him on music pure and simple. Various chapters in this little book show how good a reason there is for this demand. Full of ideas forcibly put are the remarks on organ music, fugues, church music, music in the public schools, musical prejudices, the relative merits of vocal and instrumental music, and various allied matters. In all sincerity, we urge the changes here suggested. "The Scratch Club" should be much more of a book and, if we had not been finding so much fault, we should say one with a more dignified name. But there is clearly room here to make a standard American book about music.

AMERICAN LITERATURE. By Albert H. Smyth, Prof. in the Philadelphia High School. Philadelphia: Eldredge & Bros. 1889.

Prof. Smyth has added another notable book to the long series that mark the half-century's history of the Philadelphia High School. Ever since John Sanderson, in his "American in Paris," wrote a model book of travels, "too broad and not long enough," as Dr. Chapman described it, down through the scientific manuals of Bache and McMurtrie and Rand, the classical series of Chase and Stuart, the series of text-books on the English language by John S. Hart, the elementary scientific manuals of Houston, and the arithmetic of Wilson, the High School Faculty has steadily contributed to improve the quality of the books in use there and in other schools. Prof. Smyth's American Literature is a thorough working school-book, and just because it gives to pupil and teacher the necessary information, so it is useful as a handbook of reference for others, too. It gives in clear and distinct paragraphs a sketch of the rise, growth, and history of American Literature, from its earliest beginnings in Virginia and New England, through the colonial period, and that of the Revolution and the Constitution, down to our own day. It considers the merits of all our great

writers, Mather and Edwards, Franklin, (with a very just appreciation of his real place in literature), the authors of the "Federalist," the "Hartford Wits, the Pleiades of Connecticut," Irving and Cooper, Drake, Halleck, and Bryant, and sketches briefly but very thoroughly, the awakening of New England after 1820, with especial mention of Emerson's part in it. Whittier, Longfellow, Holmes, Lowell, Hawthorne, all find just and appreciative criticism. Poe and Whitman and the poets that cover the period between them, the novelists, the humorists, the journalists, each and all are assigned their place, with due words of appreciation. Nearly half the book consists of well chosen selections from the authors who best represent our literature.

Prof. Smyth aims at a high standard of literary criticism and exacts as the condition of a real claim to lasting fame, genius and originality, with a due regard to the established canons of good work in prose and poetry. He does not allow that poetic license is any excuse for bad grammar and neglect of the rules of versification. Thus his manual is of itself an instruction in the elements of good style, and an encouragement to securing it even in school work. His brief biographies serve to show the historical connection between the successive writers who make our American literature, and their dates will help to fix the events of our history and their influence on the literary work of our most important epochs. The book has the great merit of conciseness, which of course was absolutely needful when so large a subject was to be compressed within limits so narrow.

AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS.

THE demand for Lord Tennyson's new volume is reported to have been enormous in England. All the poems are short. One of them is dedicated to Mr. Lowell. The critical verdict, as far as noted, is highly favorable.

The Open Court Publishing Company, Chicago, announces for immediate appearance an authorized translation of Th. Ribot's "Psychology of Attention."

"The life of Carmen Sylva" (queen of Roumania), translated from the German by the Baroness Deichmann, is announced by Kegan Paul & Co.

Mr. George Meredith has found a new recreation, consisting of translating five passages of Homer into English hexameters.

The first volume of the new series of brief biographies of English actors, edited by Mr. William Archer, will appear early in the year. It will be the life of Macready by the editor.

Mr. Gladstone is writing an important article on Mr. Motley and his work as an historian, which will contain some very interesting personal reminiscences.

Mr. Thomas G. Shearman of Brooklyn, has offered, through the American Economic Association, a prize of \$250 for the best essay on State and Local Taxation of Personal Property in the United States. It must not exceed 25,000 words, and must meet certain inquiries which are enumerated in a circular by Prof. Richard T. Ely of Baltimore, Secretary of the Association.

Lord Spencer is to sell his famous library at Althorp, perhaps the best private collection of rare and curious books in England. Why the Earl should want to dispose of this matchless collection is a mystery, since he has always been very proud of it, and as he is enormously wealthy.

The Old and New Testament Student, a monthly publication, and Hebraica, a quarterly, edited by Prof. W. R. Harper of Yale University, were transferred January 1, by the C. Venton Patterson Publishing Company, of New York (which has published the journals during the past year), to the Student Publishing Company, of New York and Hartford, a company organized for the special purpose of carrying on the work. The business manager will be C. H. Piddock, of Hartford.

The late Prof. W. F. Allen's "History of Rome" is all in type with the exception of the prefatory matter and the Indexes. It will be published by Ginn & Co.

A biography of Lord Erskine, by a descendant of the famous lawyer, Hon. Stuart Erskine, is a forthcoming book of consequence in England.

A meeting of Polish historians is to be held early in the year, at Lemberg, with a view of considering how best to promote the study of the history of Poland.

Prof. Crookshank of England, is going to publish a two-volume work on "The History and Pathology of Vaccination," with many colored plates and other illustrations.

"A History of British Painting and Painters," containing interesting details of the divisions in the councils of, and the several secessions from, the Royal Academy, facts concerning the origin of the Institute of Painters in Water Colors, and brief biographi-

cal sketches and critical remarks on the work of the painters who are dealt with, has been projected in London.

Mr. Stanley Lane-Poole has edited the papers of Sir George Bowen, and the book will be published immediately by Longmans, Green & Co.

A new and cheaper edition of Bryce's "American Commonwealth," to be published immediately by Messrs. Macmillan, will omit the chapter on "The Tweed Ring," that being the subject of a pending action for libel.

"The Pilgrim's Progress" has been translated recently into Amharic, the language of Abyssinia. The book has now been translated into eighty-four languages and dialects.

A monument to Leopold Arends, the inventor of the system of shorthand known by his name, was lately unveiled at Berlin. The ceremony was attended by representatives from all parts of Germany.

Mr. Robert Carter, founder and senior partner of the highly respected book firm of Robert Carter & Brothers, died in New York on Saturday last, aged 82 years. He was a native of Scotland and came to this country when a young man, starting life as a tutor in Columbia College. He went into the book business in 1834, and it is remarkable that in the various changes and steady growth of the concern of which he was the founder, the publications of the house have been wholly theological or religious, although every denomination is represented in its catalogue. Its list contains the largest series of juvenile books adapted to Sunday School libraries ever issued by an individual publishing house. Mr. Carter was himself the author of various of these juveniles, and he also compiled a volume of poetry entitled "Scotia's Bards." He survived all his early contemporaries in the trade—the elder Harpers, Daniel Appleton, Jonathan Leavitt, and George P. Putnam.

The monograph on Robert Browning, which will appear in due course in the "Great Writers" series, will be written by Mr. William Sharp.

Professor Herkomer has been one of the most enthusiastic students of Mr. Pennell's book on "Pen-Drawing." Mr. Herkomer is so much impressed by the excellence of the autographic reproductions in that work that he is said to be almost persuaded to give up etching and take to pen-drawing for "process."

Mr. E. L. Bynner, author of "Agnes Surriage," etc., is librarian of the Boston Law Library.

The death is reported from London of Rev. Edward Bradley, ("Cuthbert Bede") whose clever description of Oxford life in a book called "Verdant Green" had great vogue some thirty or more years ago. "Verdant Green" antedated Mr. Thomas Hughes' books about Oxford and Rugby, nor is it greatly inferior to those now better known books. Mr. Bradley wrote various other semi-humorous books but none of them attained to the popularity of "Verdant Green."

Thomas Hardy has finished a new novel bearing the odd title "The Melancholy Hussar."

Mr. Oscar Fay Adams writes to the Critic relative to his Life of Jane Austen: "My work has not only received the sanction of many of the members of the Austen family, but so far as was possible they have aided me in verifying minor details, and in supplying bits of hitherto unpublished information about her. I am conscious that my work still leaves much to be desired, but I think that whenever it appears in print it will be found to give a reasonably clear and definite conception of Jane Austen as she appeared to those who knew her."

Mrs. Alexander has written a novel with the title "A Woman's Heart."

Mr. George Allen, Mr. Ruskin's publisher, has decided upon starting a London house (Bell Yard) to relieve the pressure on his premises at Arpington.

A unique and precious memorial of Browning is a phonogram of his voice. Mr. Browning once spoke into a phonograph for Colonel Gouraud of London, who has carefully treasured the speech. Science has certainly few greater marvels than this.

Mr. Justin Winsor is engaged upon a biographical and historical work which promises to be as valuable as it will be timely. It will appear under the title of "Christopher Columbus: an examination of the historical and geographical conditions under which the Western Continent was disclosed to Europe; with an inquiry into the personal history of Cristoval Colon."

The Montreal Gazette (Dec. 30), intimates that Sir John Macdonald and his colleagues will ask the Canadian parliament to continue the *modus vivendi* for another year, and adds: "There is hope of reopening negotiations with the United States, if not directly in connection with the fisheries, at least in relation to the reciprocal interchange of products."

PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

THE *Woman's Tribune* of Nebraska is to be published in Washington during the sessions of Congress. As the paper seeks to advance the cause of woman suffrage there is an obvious point in having its headquarters at the seat of government.

A penny weekly paper, devoted to art matters and in large part written by artists, will appear in London soon. At such a price it naturally cannot have illustrations. It will be edited by members of the new English Art Club, and its title will be the *Art World*.

Galignani's Messenger is reported to have changed hands, having been bought by a newly formed newspaper company. Several other Anglo-American papers on the continent of Europe have been bought by the same company, the intention being to consolidate them in a weekly, to be called *The International Times*, of which Leopold Grahame will be the editor.

Mr. Walter Besant has written a novel called "Armored of Lyonesse," which is to be published in *Harper's Bazar*.

The Philadelphia *Public Ledger* Almanac for 1890 well maintains the previous years' issues of a most carefully designed and useful publication. It presents a great amount of statistical matter of a kind constantly needed for reference, in an ingeniously compact and well arranged shape. One of the numerous reasons which people have for regarding Mr. Childs with gratitude is his almanac, which is given away by the thousands every year and is a sure guide and help in many homes.

ART.

THE EXHIBITION AT THE ART CLUB.

THE Art Club Exhibition, to which brief mention was given a fortnight ago, claims more precise attention. If not especially brilliant as a whole, or noticeable for the presence of works whose merits—or other qualities—are sufficiently striking to excite any great enthusiasm or heated discussion, it is yet thoroughly representative of the condition of art among us to-day: it emphasizes not only present tendencies and aims, but present limitations and needs as well.

And first could any better opportunity be offered for noting the restless and changeable aim and the tentative and unsettled methods which assuredly constitute the most striking characteristics of American painting, than the examples that have been brought together here in an exhibition which is large enough and varied enough to show fairly well the scope of present tendencies and influences, and yet not large enough to be bewildering? For really, between Miss Ida Waugh's "Hagar and Ishmael" (No. 109), and Mr. Casilear's "Genesee Valley" (No. 44), you have pretty much of everything that is characteristic of the range of endeavor and the variety of sources from which inspiration and guidance have been sought during these last fifty years at least. The one quite as much a matter of prevalent influences,—why not say fashions, at once, and have done with it?—as the other, and how they emphasize, both of them, the rareness of personal qualities,—except as personal defects,—and the dependence of art upon the traditions of the schools!

But this is not discouraging; it is only instructive. The discouraging thing is that there seems to be so little guidance on the part of the public to all this ever-varying endeavor; so little in popular standards of taste and appreciation that is any more fixed and definite than the shifting aims of the artists. As far as Philadelphia itself is concerned there is more discouragement still in the fact that even in an exhibition of this size three-fourths of the pictures have to come from other cities. And when you think of it,—how fast the artists themselves are emigrating to other places and how many of the names in the present catalogue that would have counted as Philadelphian a few years ago do so no more. A feeling is abroad that the Club may exert a certain amount of helpful influence in changing all this. Let us hope it may. Let us hope that its success as a Club, which is already greater than even the most sanguine of its promoters expected, may be accepted as an indication of a real and healthy growth of interest in the objects for which it was organized, and that it will really stand, as the years go by, for substantial help and recognition and encouragement of a form of culture which is perhaps more distinctly humanizing than any other, and of whose achievements civilization is on the whole the most proud, but which, it is not too much to say, has been held in little honor among us hitherto.

And, surely, when it comes to the kind of recognition which even the least sordid among artists is forced to think of first, it ought not to be a difficult matter to bestow a little of it among the works shown here, and although one does not like to think of such exhibitions as mere marts, the sympathetic visitor, especially if he be a critic, (critics are always sympathetic, I believe), looks

with a certain amount of eagerness whenever he goes to the galleries for those little tickets of approbation which only the salesman in charge can affix. As has just been said, there is much beautiful work ere which deserves this recognition, and on which it could not possibly be misplaced. In portraiture there are several exquisite things. Mr. Carl Newman's portrait of a lady with a greyhound, for example, which he calls "a Study in Brown and Gray," (No. 39), or the "Portrait of Miss D." (No. 45), by Mr. Lyle Durgin, or Mr. Clifford Grayson's refined and delicate portrait of a lady, (No. 144.); or the little head which is in its way the daintiest and most exquisite piece of work in the exhibition, "A Bohemian Belle," (No. 33), by Miss Minnie Milton. Among the figure pieces that are most like portraits, the "Psyche," (No. 35), of J. H. Witt is noticeable for its cleverness, and "La Belle Helene," (No. 67), and "Sisters" (No. 152), by Benoni Irwin for very attractive color qualities.

But the modern heart, if touched at all, is touched by a story, and the culmination of the painter's efforts is to tell a story, after all. Although just a little dry in its technique, "The Story of the Wreck," (No. 123), by Frederic James, is admirable for its dramatic interest, and Mrs. Rhoda Holmes Nicholls's large water color "The Scarlet Letter," (No. 179), is hardly less effective, while on purely technical grounds it is more interesting still. Mr. W. Verplanck Birney's "The Veteran's Story," (No. 97), and "Tales of a Grandfather," (No. 136), appeal to the same sentiment; and Mr. C. Y. Turner's "The Bridal Procession," (No. 78), and Mr. Alfred Fredericks's Rip Van Winkle, (No. 149), are earnest efforts in the direction of giving pictorial expression to stories with which we are already familiar. These last two pictures differ from Mrs. Nicholls's "Scarlet Letter," in that they are literal renderings of the words of the literary story-teller, while the other is rather an artist's interpretation of an appeal which in its literary form is sufficiently general to admit of varied treatment at the hands of the artist.

For lightness of touch and graceful gaiety of treatment, nothing here is more delightful than the "Gooselet by the Sea," (No. 80), by E. W. Chambers; the landscape swims in light, and the little figure is as full of life and fun as the day is full of sunshine. Of Mr. O. C. Wigand's "A Daughter of the House," (No. 40 A), very much the same is to be said, and it is, moreover, one of those things which it is so hard to do well,—a green picture.

Of landscape pure and simple there is excellent work in William Sartain's "Sand Dunes at Mannasquan," (No. 38), in Mr. Frederick J. Waugh's "Solitude," (No. 5), in Mr. James B. Sword's "October Morning," (No. 17), in "The Evening on the Marsh," (No. 26), by De Forrest Bolmar, in "Autumn on the Massachusetts Coast," (No. 90), by Geo. H. Smillie, in C. Harry Eaton's "A Breezy Day at Bellport, L. I.," (No. 106), in two very beautiful water colors by W. Hamilton Gibson, "A Glimpse in Litchfield, Connecticut," (No. 172), and "Autumn Morning in the White Hills," (169). "At Fresh Water Cove, Massachusetts," (No. 184), is also a delightfully fresh and strong water color by Stanley Middleton, and "A Pasture," (No. 142), is a sturdily and pathetically honest bit of New England landscape by D. W. Tryon.

Of landscapes with cattle or which derive their interest largely from the treatment of similar accessories, Mr. Peter Moran's large picture, "Down the Arroyo to Santa Fé," (No. 25), and the same painter's "The Pasture Land," (84), an extremely good picture, by the way, which ought not to be overlooked in the presence of the larger and more ambitious work, and Mr. Henry R. Poore's "John Alden's Bull," (No. 66), deserve especial mention, while Mr. Gilbert Gaul's "Charging the Earthworks," (No. 12), is a spirited rendering of a subject of real historical interest which should have been mentioned earlier among the figure pictures.

L. W. M.

SCIENCE NOTES.

SEVERAL scientific bodies were in session last week in New York and Boston. The American Society of Naturalists, of which Prof. George L. Goodale of Harvard, is President, met in New York, December 27th. The society is composed of active workers, those only who are engaged in teaching, research, or museum work, being eligible for membership. Among the papers read was one on "Methods for Testing Color-blindness among Railway Employees." The author, Dr. Oliver, proposes trying the men under the same conditions as those under which they work. He holds this to be a better method than laboratory tests.

The American Geological Society held its annual meeting in New York on the same date, continuing for two days. Before the regular meeting a conference of a dozen or more representatives of State surveys of this country and Canada was held to consider a plan for correlating the geological work of the various States. A committee was appointed to draw up a plan. Prof. James Hall of Albany, the President, reviewed the history of the Society and gave biographical sketches of some early members. Prof. Orton

of Columbus, in discussing the rock pressure of natural gas in the Trenton limestone of Ohio and Indiana, expressed the opinion that the natural gas supply of Ohio would last not more than ten years. Among the other papers read may be mentioned the following: "The Value of the Term 'Hudson River Group' in Geologic Nomenclature," by Charles D. Walcott, United States Geological Survey; "The Calciferous Formation of the Champlain Valley," by Ezra Brainerd and H. M. Seely of Middlebury College, Vermont; "The Fort Cassin Rocks and Their Fauna," by R. P. Whitfield, American Museum of Natural History; "The Cuboides Zone," by H. S. Williams of Cornell University; "Cretaceous Plants from Martha's Vineyard," C. D. White, United States Geological Survey; "The Sandstone Dikes of the Forks of Cottonwood Creek," J. S. Diller, United States Geological Survey, and "Illustrations of the Glaciers in the Selkirk Mountains of Alaska," by A. S. Bickmore.

Prof. Rowland, of Johns Hopkins, has been honored by his election to a foreign membership of the Royal Society, London. Prof. Rowland has contributed much to the progress of physics in America, his work in the theory and practical manufacture of diffraction-gratings of great power being especially well known. Other work in which he has attained noteworthy results are the absolute determination of the magnetic susceptibilities of iron, nickel, and cobalt; accurate measurements of fundamental physical constants; the experimental proof of the electro-magnetic effect of electric convection.

A report lately made to the Agricultural Department by Mr. W. B. Barrows, embodied an investigation of the food of crows. The report says these birds do far more harm than good; that while it is not forgotten that they destroy injurious insects, mice, and sometimes act as scavengers, still a great amount of evidence collected shows that these services fail to balance their mischief in other ways. The injury done to corn and other cereals is enormous, as the crow not only pulls up young plants, but digs out new-sown seed. Potatoes, beans, cherries, and small berries also suffer. Add to this that he widely distributes the seeds of certain poisonous plants, and that he eats some beneficial insects, and destroys the eggs of domestic fowls and wild birds.

The Indiana Academy of Science, which has a large and active membership, began its annual session at Indianapolis on the 30th Dec. The President is Mr. J. C. Branner; the Vice-Presidents are O. P. Hay, J. L. Campbell, T. C. Mendenhall. The list of papers presented amounted to about sixty titles, generally of local application, though some were of general interest.

The *Comptes Rendus* (Nov. 25) contains an article by M. Bertholet on the animal heat of the human body. Lavoisier, who first recognized the fact that animal heat is produced by combustion, raised the question as to whether this combustion takes place in the lungs at the point the oxygen is absorbed, or in the entire system. M. Bertholet finds that one-seventh is produced in the lungs while six-sevenths are produced in the system by reactions of oxidation and hydration. The absorption of oxygen raises the temperature of blood in the lungs while the return of the carbonic acid to a gaseous state and the evaporation of moisture tends to lower it.

A new scientific periodical, the *Revue Générale des Sciences Pures et Appliquées*, representing the mathematical, physical, and biological sciences, is about to begin publication in Paris. The editor is M. L. Olivier, and the list of contributors includes many names eminent in science. It will be a fortnightly, the first number appearing Jan. 15, 1890.

Near-sightedness is developing to such an alarming extent among the school children in France that the Academy of Medicine has taken up the subject and discussed it at one of its recent sittings. It appears that near-sightedness is generally noticed among the young men who are preparing to enter one of the large special schools, such as the Polytechnic School, the Normal School, the Mining School, etc. Nearly all the students admitted to these institutions have a beginning of near-sightedness, which afterwards increases and becomes hereditary. In the army there are said to be many young officers who, without eye-glasses or spectacles, are unable to distinguish objects at a distance of a hundred yards. The general average of near-sighted students in the rhetoric and philosophy classes in the colleges is 35 per cent. In Germany the average is 57 per cent., and in Switzerland 30 per cent. To remedy this state of things the Academy suggests several changes in the arrangement of the school buildings, so as to give better light, the appointment of an oculist for each state institution of learning, and a regular and careful inspection of the scholars.

STRANGE QUESTIONS BY MR. WANAMAKER'S SECRETARY.

IN a recent address in New York City, (Dec. 16), before the Commonwealth Club, Mr. William Dudley Foulke, of Indiana, made the following statement:

"A certain circular marked 'Confidential' was sent by one Marshall Cushing (who has since been appointed private secretary to Postmaster-General Wanamaker) to a number of civil service reformers, and one copy came to me. As the correspondence has been already published on several occasions, I do not suppose there is anything very secret about it, at the present time, but even if it were otherwise, I do not recognize the right of a public officer to make me the mask of concealing his insincerity, without my consent. The writer says: 'I have undertaken some investigations of the present civil service system for a cabinet officer,' and he asks a number of questions: 'Why are the Law and the Commission subject to so much criticism?' 'Is not a civil pension list a logical result of the system?' 'Are not the Commissioners merely providing themselves with employment?' 'Will not the efficiency of the departments be hereafter interfered with by the old age of clerks who can not be removed?' And then follows the remarkable interrogatory, 'Why should not both parties discard all their insincere professions for the Law and have the patriotism to go back to the old system under which it was inquired simply whether a man was honest, capable, and faithful to the Constitution?'"

REMARKS OF MR. FOULKE.

Mr. Foulke said that these questions had already been very fully answered by Mr. Charles J. Bonaparte, of Baltimore, and Mr. Lucius B. Swift, of Indianapolis, two of the gentlemen to whom they were sent. (These letters we print herewith.) Mr. Foulke, for himself, then went on to say: "I shall not repeat these answers, but I want to say a word with regard to this last question. I believe this is the first time in our history where an investigation made on behalf of a cabinet officer is based upon the assumption that the professions of his own party, contained in the very platform upon which he came into power, were insincere and unpatriotic. If Mr. Wanamaker is willing to declare this to the world, one of two things is true—either the party which he represents is, in fact, insincere, or he has no right to represent it and remain one of the instruments of carrying out its policy in regard to the matters in which he assumes that it did not mean what it said. So long as such a man remains at the head of the post-office department the administration of President Harrison is not a civil service reform administration, and he has not kept, and can not keep, the promise that 'the spirit and purpose of reform shall be observed for all executive departments.' For he has put at the head of the greatest of departments of the government, to carry out this spirit and purpose, a man who assumes that the declarations of his party and his own chief were insincere and unpatriotic professions."

"We had a few years ago some little trouble in Indiana in reference to one Aquilla Jones, the postmaster at Indianapolis, who, when appointed to the place, said of the civil service law, 'I despise it,' and who consistently maintained his opinion by a constant course of evasion and violation of the statute. We thought then that the initial fault lay with the President in appointing such a man,—that he could not expect the law and its provisions to be observed when he put such instruments there to do the work. But if this were true in a subordinate and unimportant office, how much more is it the case when a cabinet officer, whose work it is to carry out the policy of the Administration, declares that the principles professed by his own party in its platform are nothing but a mockery and a sham! Men do not gather grapes from thorns nor figs from thistles, nor can the President carry out the principles of civil service reform to which he pledged his adherence in his letter accepting the nomination by means of a cabinet minister who assumes that this pledge was an insincere and unpatriotic profession."

LETTER OF CHAS. J. BONAPARTE.

BALTIMORE, October 29, 1889.

My Dear Sir: I cannot avoid thinking it very strange that a cabinet officer should be troubled by the questions you ask, but if I can set his mind at rest I shall be most happy to do so.

I. Civil service reform has no more to do with a system of superannuation pensions than it has with a system of compulsory vaccination. All the important industrial or mercantile establishments of this or any other country select subordinate employees on civil service reform principles—that is to say, choose these because they are thought to be fit to do their work; retain them while they show themselves to be fit to do their work; discharge them when they are proven to be no longer fit to do their work. There is just as much and just as little reason for one of these establishments to have a pension list as there is for the Government—for Mr. Wanamaker, as an example, to pension worn-out salesmen or shop-walkers in his store, as for the Government to pension worn-out letter-carriers or route-agents.

II. I suppose that in your statement that enough are already certified by the Commissioners here to supply the department for ten years, there is a slip of the pen, and that the italicized words should be "on the list of." I see nothing very surprising in this. The Enoch Pratt Free Library, of which I am a trustee, has only between forty and fifty employes, and vacancies are extremely rare, yet we have several thousand applications for positions there on file, and more come in every day. The cabinet officer for whom you are acting must have little experience of public life if he fails to appreciate the tremendous pressure to get places under Government, or the relief which civil service rules must always afford appointing officers. All those whose names are on the lists, and all those others who were scared off by the examinations they knew they couldn't pass, would, were it not for this barrier, be now making his life a burden by their solicitations and those of their friends.

III. The fear "that in ten or fifteen years some of the departments will be seriously crippled by the inefficiency of old clerks who cannot be discharged," if sincere, is chimerical. Why cannot such clerks be discharged? There is nothing in the Civil Service Law or the civil service rules, or the opinion of civil service reformers, to interfere with their discharge. If the difficulty is that heads of bureaus will not like to discharge them, these must steel their minds by practice for the disagreeable duty. Such officers, however, seem to be quite willing to discharge their subordinates to the injury of the public service; why should they be less willing to do it in the interest of the service? Is it harder for Mr. Clarkson, for instance, to replace a post-master who doesn't attend to his business than to replace one that does? I should think that a man who was appointed only because he was efficient was much less likely to retain his place when he became inefficient than one who was originally appointed to please Boss P. or Boss Q.

I appreciate your very proper offer to regard this letter as confidential, but although it has been too hastily written for publication, you are otherwise at liberty to "put it where it will do most good" in your judgment.

Your letter reached me at the moment of my leaving the city, and since my return I have been extremely busy, hence the delay in its acknowledgment. I remain, my dear sir,

Yours very respectfully, CHAS. J. BONAPARTE.

LETTER OF LUCIUS B. SWIFT.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., November 4, 1889.

My Dear Sir: In reply to your letter of October 23, asking certain questions in relation to the reform of the civil service, I shall be glad to give you such ideas as I have.

The law and the Commission are now subject to certain criticism because they stand in the way of certain persons who want the office either for themselves or with which to pay personal debts or party debts. Compared with the whole people or even with the entire Republican party, the number of critics, though somewhat noisy, is small. They are almost universally in some way attached to the Republican party machine—that is, they are Congressmen or partisan leaders, or men who claim office as a reward for party work, though it must be said a large proportion were paid for their services out of the campaign fund. For instance, I met a man the other day who had brought five Democrats to vote for General Harrison, and he felt much hurt because his son could not get an office in payment. Those holding the mistaken view that the public offices ought to be used to pay for such services are angry at seeing some 27,000 places beyond their reach. The vigor of their criticism shows that the law is being enforced, and that we have a Commission that is not afraid to resist the demand of Congressmen for these places. Undoubtedly the fact that President Harrison has allowed the unclassified service to be used for a carnival of spoils has added keenness to the appetite of those who want places.

The objection that a civil pension list is the logical result of the present system is a queer objection. Taxes are levied, money is appropriated, and names are placed on a pension list by law. If in the future it should seem best to have a civil pension list, they would doubtless legislate to provide for it, otherwise they will not. To say that a civil pension list will have to be set up some time in the future, because the clerical offices are thrown open to be competed for and that they are given to those who best stand the tests of fair competition open to all, is going a good way to hunt an objection. I do not, however, shrink from the question of a civil pension list. We are now running under a modernized feudal system in which Platt, Mahone, and Quay are specimen chiefs. They terrorize the government employes and get money out of them to maintain themselves in authority. For the same purpose they take much time of government officers. The possibility of a short term also keeps the rate of pay up. Frequent

changes fill the service with inexperienced men, and a large percentage more have to be hired. For all this the people now pay heavily. If an employe understood that his tenure depended solely upon his competency and efficiency, and that otherwise he was a free citizen to vote as he pleased, and that at the end of a long term of faithful service he would receive a pension, he would consent to a reduction in his pay which, added to what would be saved by cutting off what now goes to inefficiency and to the Platts, Mahones, and Quays, would leave the government a large gainer; and, in addition, the people would rule themselves, instead of being ruled by organized bands of officeholders, as they are now.

The objection that the Commission having examined enough clerks to last ten years, are open to the charge of now providing themselves with employment by holding further examinations, seems too silly for argument. The rule, I believe, was made by President Cleveland, and it causes the slate of eligibles to be wiped off once a year. The reason given was that new persons constantly appeared who wanted a chance to compete, and this seemed and still seems fair, and the public business also thus constantly has the advantage of the services of men who have stood the competition best.

To the objection that clerks will grow old and cannot be removed, the answer is that they can be removed. The merit system puts no limit upon the power of removal for cause. It is a cause for removal that a clerk has got too old to perform his duties. He takes his chances when he enters the service. It is a strange objection to urge that a man ought to be removed at the end of four years for no cause, and not at the end of twenty for cause.

I suppose the question, "Why both parties should not discard their insincere professions and have the patriotism to go back to the old system, when it was inquired simply if a man was honest, capable, and faithful to the Constitution," is asked soberly. It is not clear what is meant by the "old system." During the first forty years under the Constitution scarcely any removals were made—something less than a hundred. Few personal or party debts could thus have been paid, and the presidents of that time were above the business of thus using a public trust. The criticism to be made upon their method of appointment is that, aside from being impracticable as a business matter, owing to the great increase in the number of offices, it was undemocratic and did not allow an open competition. If the period since Andrew Jackson is meant, no such question as you speak of has been asked. The sole discriminating test of appointment has been whether the appointee has been or will be a powerful supporter of some partisan leader—usually a Congressman. Except where a civil service law has afforded relief, the system rests upon the American people to-day like an incubus, and it is that which civil service reformers are going to break up. They are going to break it up not only on the ground that it is undemocratic and unbusiness-like, but because, to quote the words of Mr. Bonaparte, the use of a public office to pay a personal or party debt is always and everywhere immoral; it is a breach of trust and a form of bribery. I do not admit that both parties are insincere in this matter. The party machines which control the getting up of the platforms undoubtedly are. From a wide inquiry among the people, I believe that a great majority are opposed to the use of a public office to pay personal or party debts. The party machines fear this, and neither party machine is going to lead its party to certain destruction, even to save itself from the charge of insincerity, about which it is not worrying.

With regard to the administration of President Harrison and its merits compared with that of President Cleveland in the West, I only wish to speak for myself. President Cleveland disgracefully broke his promises, disgracefully allowed the civil service law to be violated, and disgracefully turned the unclassified service over to be divided as spoil. President Harrison with the unclassified service has been a quicker violator of his promise than was President Cleveland, and he has been more open about it. In the classified service the law is undoubtedly being enforced as it never was before. The good effect is very noticeable. If this is kept up it will give the merit system a chance to justify itself, and President Harrison will have rendered a valuable service to civil service reform.

There is nothing confidential about this communication.

Very truly yours,

LUCIUS B. SWIFT.

"The health of Hon. Joseph E. Brown is very feeble," says the Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle. "We trust this distinguished Georgian will be spared to his people yet for many years. Senator Brown, although feeling very deeply Mr. Grady's death, was unable to attend the funeral."

German emigration to this country is diminishing somewhat. The number of departures from January to October was about 82,000 against 99,000 for the same time last year and 100,000 in 1885.

THE FUTURE SITUATION OF OUR COTTON MANUFACTURE.¹

A FEW sheetings and drills have been exported from the Southern factories, and a few Southern goods have been sold in the West, but at the same time there has been a constantly increasing demand upon the North for medium and fine goods. These Southern goods which we have heard of from our salesmen were all made in the larger factories, which are well equipped with modern machinery,—many of them being operated by men who would succeed anywhere,—but they do not yet constitute a rule, nor must we forget or disregard the personal factor in dealing with this question. It is upon the personal factor, much more than upon proximity to the cotton-field, that the success of the Southern factory will depend. The advantage of position was only measured at a cent a pound four or five years ago. The freight from central Alabama to New England is now less than three-quarters of a cent a pound. Very soon it will be down to half a cent; then what? The greater part of the Southern factories are, as you observe, too small to be economically worked, averaging but a fraction over five thousand spindles each. So long as these small factories are devoted to supplying Southern neighborhoods and Southern communities with checks, plaids, and heavy brown cotton, for which there is always a demand in that section greater than any other, they will succeed or fail according to the skill and aptitude of the owner or manager. It may have been observed that within the last few weeks there has been an overstock of these peculiarly Southern goods, and an effort has been made to check the production. Some of the Southern sheetings which have lately appeared in Northern markets must, I think, have been sold at less than cost.

I have referred to the personal factor as the main element in settling this question. In a small factory, wherever it may be, there must be such personal interest or individual ownership as to secure the necessary skill and judgment in the conduct of the work, and there must not be a set of stockholders who like cormorants swallow their dividends and demand them without regard to the condition of the market. In the larger mills, especially when owned by a corporation, the establishment must be of sufficient size to command the services of the most competent men, especially in the manufacturing department.

Does it not follow, from all these facts which I have submitted, that the competition of the Southern with the Northern factory, down to this time, has been more theoretical than practical? Is it not yet to begin, if it is felt in any considerable measure in respect to the home consumption of the East, the Middle States, and the West, aside from a very few heavy sheetings which have been sold in our Northern markets?

I must, therefore, again repeat the word of warning which I have so often given to my Southern friends: Beware of the isolated cotton-factory, and also beware of the small corporation; do not proceed upon the idea that, because the factory is near the cotton, it possesses any great advantage. Men who begin in a small way and grow up with their business, or who have learned it elsewhere, may succeed, as many are now succeeding; but those who subscribe to the stock of an isolated Southern cotton-factory with the notion that a cent a pound or less advantage over the North in the price of cotton will assure success, may get their experience at a high price when some other shrewder man buys the mill at a low price. In any event, under present conditions, not less than ten per cent. a year on the cost of machinery should be charged off to depreciation. In many mills which I have visited, at least that portion of the machinery was going into the cost of the goods; in some cases without the knowledge of the owners.

Now, as to the future center or *situs* of the cotton manufacture. If you glance over the history of nearly all the principal arts, you will find that there has been a tendency for them to concentrate in special sections of given countries or States. Where and how such arts may originate may be to a certain extent a matter of chance; but once established, it seems as if not only the manual skill and aptitude but the mental force of the whole neighborhood adjusted themselves to the special condition of these particular arts. Some one man invents or improves the machine, begins his work in one place, and makes money at it. This attracts attention; others gather in the neighborhood, and presently that place becomes the center of that specific art.

Go to Gloversville, in New York, away off on the high hills north of the Mohawk River: the whole population makes gloves and mittens. The art has existed there for so long a time that it has affected the language. If you are invited out to tea, when you are offered sugar and cream the hostess will ask you if you "take trimmings with your tea."

Go to Troy. One man invented nearly all the machinery on which the laundry-work is established, and all the laundries are

called "Troy laundries." Then, since the laundry is the necessary adjunct of the shirt-factory, Troy and its neighborhood have become the center of the shirt, collar, and cuff manufacture. In this art the cutting and making of the shirt have been so perfected that it costs less to make the shirt than it does to do the laundry-work upon it and get it ready for sale; while the women who operate the sewing and ironing machinery earn higher wages than even your best weavers, because they make the shirts at the lowest cost. It is only the woman who sews poorly who is a poor sewing-woman.

Go to Foxborough, Mass.,—the whole population makes straw hats; over at Taunton and in that neighborhood, tacks and brads; down in Connecticut, around Meriden and Waterbury, all the brass-work of special kinds. Go to Leicester Hill, the important occupation is making cards for your factories, with some offshoots in Worcester. Even a single art divides up. Lynn makes fine boots and shoes for women; Brockton, common boots for men; Spencer, heavy boots for men.

The Dundee orange marmalade is another instance. Why should orange marmalade be made in Scotland, and not in Spain, where the oranges grow? I think the immediate benefit to the people in Florida, Louisiana, and Georgia might be greater in the introduction of the marmalade manufacture rather than in that of the cotton fabrics. The capital of a single cotton-mill would establish a great many marmalade factories, and, like the eggs, there might be no end to the consumption.

Now, for one reason or another, the art of spinning cotton centered in Lancashire, England, first starting in and around Manchester. It stays in Lancashire. Manchester remains the center of the trade, but the trend of the spindles is away from Manchester proper. The spinners have for some years built nearly all the new mills at Oldham and other towns, seven or eight hundred feet above the sea-level, on the crest of the ridge beyond which the moors stretch away to Scotland. They may not have known why they went there, but it is the point where the relative humidity of the atmosphere is most constant. The rainfall is only about half what it is in Massachusetts, but the relative humidity of the atmosphere is very high, and you are always looking out for a shower. The dry, bad days for spinning are when the wind is from the east—that is, the dry wind in England coming over the land.

They are building a ship-canal to Manchester at an enormous expense, estimated at ten million pounds, or fifty million dollars, in order to save the railway freight on cotton from Liverpool to Manchester; but when the cotton reaches Manchester it will be taken over upon the cars and hauled up this heavy grade. The spinners did not make this change without a reason. What was it? Can there be any reason except the climatic conditions?

Our textile factories first gathered in centers where there was water power. It happened that Samuel Slater landed in Rhode Island, midway in the section where, I think, the cotton manufacture will stay. But water power carried many mills away up into New Hampshire, down into Maine, and elsewhere. That influence has gone by. Steam has taken the place of water power.

My judgment has been for a very long time that, barring one element which I will treat later, the greater part of the cotton spinning and weaving of this country will tend to concentrate along the south shore of New England, from New Bedford by way of Fall River, Narragansett Bay, and so on along the Sound, at the points to which coal can be carried in barges at very moderate cost, to which the cotton can be brought at diminishing rates of transportation from the South, and where the conditions of life are comfortable, the supplies abundant, and where all the subsidiary arts will gather or have gathered around the factories.

It is along this shore that the Gulf Stream exerts an influence somewhat like that which affects Lancashire. Although perhaps less in degree, the humidity of the atmosphere is more constant and more nearly consistent with the best conditions for spinning and weaving than it is in any other section of this country within my knowledge. I will not speak dogmatically upon this point, because I do not think we yet know enough of atmospheric conditions to be able to determine this question. It is one of the elements of the case. As this concentration takes place, as you so well know, the relative number of spare hands and the number of repair hands in each factory will be diminished; thus the general expenses will be reduced. The draft for help will be made upon the whole population, and the work will be subdivided in the way which is most conducive to the very closest economy.

To what extent weaving will be separated from spinning we have yet to see. I think that separation will go on as the work becomes finer and more dependent upon the changing fashion and fancy of the season than upon its quality for the sale of the product. That tendency is clearly apparent in the increase of fine spinning-mills in this section, in which no weaving is done. I have called attention to these points before.

¹Extracts from the address of Edward Atkinson, before the New England Cotton Manufacturers' Association, October 30, 1889; reprinted in the *Popular Science Monthly* for January, 1890.

Again, I am inclined to believe that any very rapid development of Southern cotton manufacture will meet a check from the yet more rapid progress of our Southern brethren in many other apparently minor branches of industry. These minor branches, in the aggregate, are more important to the State and more conducive to diversity of occupation.

There has been up to this time a large reserve of unemployed people who could be drawn from the mountain sections of the South, where the factory-made fabrics have displaced the product of the spinning-wheel and of the hand loom, by which these people had been habituated to the textile industry. They are an excellent class of operatives, and, in passing from their isolated, narrow, and penurious lives on the hills to the factory and its surroundings, they have made a step in progress corresponding to that which occurred in New England when the farmers' daughters left the household and filled up the factories, away back in 1840 and 1850. But it will be remembered that, with the progress of wealth and common welfare, all the farmers' daughters of New England have gone up and out of the textile factory into better paid branches of work, which are less monotonous, and which are more conducive to a satisfactory life.

The farmers' daughters earned from one hundred and fifty to one hundred and seventy-five dollars a year for thirteen hours of arduous work each day, in a low-studded, stove-heated, badly lighted, and non-ventilated factory. The French Canadians, who now in greatest number occupy their places, earn about twice as much per day and more than twice as much per hour, working ten hours per day, in the modern factory which I may presently show can yet be made a chosen sanitarium. As the earnings have advanced with the improvements in the processes and conditions of the work, the cost of the product has diminished, while the workman has received an increasing proportion and the capitalist a diminishing proportion of the joint product; but there was far greater opportunity for women to change from the factory to other branches of work in New England in former times than there will soon be at the South. We at the North were always a versatile people. We always had a variety of occupation, whereas in the South nearly all the minor arts of life are in a very imperfect stage and in the very beginning of development; hence the change may be more rapid from the factory to other occupations.

Now, where it requires a thousand dollars or more of capital to set one woman at work in a cotton-mill, it only calls for two hundred or so to set one woman or man at work in a shoe-factory, in a clothing-factory, in a saddler's shop, or in any of the minor arts which may be counted by hundreds—each inconspicuous in itself, but the aggregate giving employment, even here in New England, to a force to which our factory population bears but the ratio of a small fraction.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

THE MAID OF ORLEANS, and the Great War of the English in France. By W. H. Davenport Adams. Pp. 227. \$1.25. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co.

DEMETER and Other Poems. By Lord Alfred Tennyson. Pp. 175. \$1.25. London and New York: Macmillan & Co.

ENUNCIATION AND ARTICULATION: A Practical Manual for Teachers and Schools. By Ella M. Boyce. Pp. 88. \$0.35. Boston: Ginn & Co.

DRIFT.

A GOOD deal of attention is naturally drawn to the discussion of Free Trade and Protection, in the January issue of the *North American Review*, in which the English side is sustained by Mr. Gladstone and the American by Mr. Blaine. Such a duel as this is not often seen, indeed. Of course Mr. Gladstone sustains his position ably, and, what contrasts a good deal with the contributions some of his countrymen make in discussing the great topic, he states his case without abusing those who differ. Mr. Blaine's reply is very strong,—proving, once more, what an intellectual vigor he has. Here is an interesting extract:

"To have been fully equal to the American standard of free-trade vituperation, Mr. Gladstone should have denounced our manufacturers as 'robber barons.' This is the current phrase with a class who are perhaps more noisy than numerous. The intention of the phrase is to create popular prejudice against American manufacturers as growing rich at the expense of the people. This accusation is so persistently repeated that its authors evidently regard it as important to their cause. It may perhaps surprise Mr. Gladstone to be told that out of the fifty largest fortunes in the United States—those that have arrested public attention in the last ten years—certainly not more than one has been derived from protected manufacturing; and this was amassed by a gentleman of the same Scotch blood with Mr. Gladstone himself. The forty-nine other fortunes were acquired from railway and telegraph investments, from real estate investments, from the import and sale of foreign goods, from banking, from speculations in the stock market, from fortunate mining investments, from patented inventions, and more than one from proprietary medicines. It is safe to go even farther and state that, in the 100 largest fortunes that have been viewed as such in the last ten years,

not five have been derived from the profits of protected manufactures. Protection has proved a distributor of great sums of money; not an agency for amassing it in the hands of a few. The records of our savings banks and building associations can be appealed to in support of this statement. The benefit of protection goes first and last to the men who earn their bread in the sweat of their faces. The auspicious and momentous result is that never before in the history of the world has comfort been enjoyed, education acquired, and independence secured by so large a proportion of the total population as in the United States of America."

An interesting discovery relating to the presence of the Phœnicians in the southwest counties of England is reported in the *Manchester Guardian*, on the authority of Mr. W. Thorpe, F. S. A. In the village of Ipplepen, three miles from Newton Abbot, Devon, there has for many centuries resided a family named Ballhatchet, the surviving male representative of which is Mr. Thomas Ballhatchet. This man is now 74 years of age, and the facial type is quite distinct from that of the natives of Cornwall and Devon, and distinctly of a Levantine character. The farm, which has been from time immemorial in the possession of the family, is called Ballford, or Baal's Ford, and behind the group of buildings is a large square tank of ancient artificial construction. The farm evidently stands upon the site of an old Baal temple, of which the Ballhatchets—whose ancient name was evidently Baal-Akhed, corrupted into Baal-Achet, etc.—held the office of Baal-Kamar, or Baal's priest. Immediately above the farm rises a hill, which is known as Baal-Tor, the rock or hill of Baal. The discovery of this curious survival, is very interesting, as it is in harmony with the survival of those ancient names in the yeoman classes of the southwestern counties. One of these families was the Purkisses, the charcoal burners who carried the Red King's body in their cart from the Rufus Stone to Winton Cathedral, the last of whom died only 30 years ago, and who had held their land from father to son from the days of King Alfred. Many other traces of these Phœnician colonists may, no doubt, be found if searched for in Cornwall and Devon.

A London journal of recent date says that the sloop *Osprey*, 6 guns, 1,130 tons, 1,010 horse-power, which was built at Sheerness in 1877, at a cost of £56,155, has been condemned as unfit for further service as an effective ship-of-war. The *Osprey*, which was the first composite sloop of the "Bird" class built for the Royal Navy, has had three commissions on foreign service,—one on the Pacific station, and two on the East Indies station,—and since her construction a sum of £29,476 has been expended in keeping her in a sea-going condition. She was paid off at Sheerness in June last, and has since been unemployed.

A London special of the 29th ult. says: "All arrangements have been made for the burial of the poet Browning on Tuesday noon, at Westminster Abbey. The grave will be just below Chaucer's tomb, and within a few feet of Spenser's bones. The great poet will lie side by side with Abraham Cowley, who died in 1667. The graves in the Abbey are about four feet deep; the soil is a dry red sand. When the coffins are placed in the earth a quantity of charcoal is added as a sanitary precaution. One of the traditions of the Abbey is that nothing but a handful of bones remains after 70 or 100 years. The actual decomposition is accomplished within half a century."

They propose in France to impose a tax upon all persons of foreign birth who seek employment in that country. Those who come to spend their money are left, without a special tax, to the tender mercies of landlords and shopkeepers. It is estimated that there are twelve hundred thousand strangers in France. The largest number of workmen are from Belgium and Italy. Germany and Switzerland rank next in order. It is claimed that these workmen are competing with French labor, because they are willing to live in dirt and filth. The tax proposed is 24 francs, about \$5, per annum. The increase of foreign workmen has been more than fifty per cent. during the past ten years. All strangers who practice a profession will be taxed about \$10 per annum.

The Washington correspondent of the *Boston Journal* sends the following special dispatch:

"Mr. George Kennan, whose articles upon Russian prisons have attracted so much attention, has received an unsolicited advertisement. An international Prison Congress is soon to assemble at St. Petersburg. The United States is one of the Powers invited to be present at the Congress, but in conveying the invitation the Russian Minister, of course, in the most delicate and diplomatic way, has taken occasion to say to the State Department that the Russian Government hopes that Mr. Kennan will not be one of the delegates selected."

The Canadian *Manufacturer*, in discussing ocean shipping, pointedly observes:

"For many years Great Britain has been paying large subsidies for her steamship lines, aggregating from \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000 a year; in one instance at least guaranteeing to one line a net annual dividend of eight per cent. This may be a species of free trade, but it is strongly flavored with protection."

The fact that the population in Canada since 1880 has only increased half as fast as in this country, that the Dominion expenditures have increased about 90 per cent. in that period, and that the Dominion debt has been increasing while ours has decreased, very likely has something to do with the growing annexation sentiment on the other side of the border.

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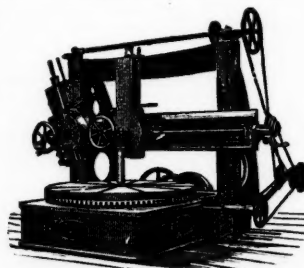
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